

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>DETROIT</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>BUREAU</b>	DATE <b>10/19/73</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>10/16 - 10/19/73</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>GERALD RUDOLPH FORD, aka.</b>  ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 02-11-2008 BY 60324/UC/BAW/STP/bls		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span>	TYPED BY
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>SPECIAL INQUIRY</b>	

REFERENCE: Detroit report of SA   
dated 10/17/73.

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LEADDETROIT DIVISION

Will continue investigation.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Investigative period of instant report overlaps that of referenced Detroit report to include material not available at the time of submission of referenced report.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED <i>Am</i>					SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:					DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
6 - Bureau (AMSD)					161-17896-145 DEC-83		
1 - Detroit (161-1355)					RECORDED		
1/1000 in Bulky Box					3 DEC 19 1973		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations		
Agency	161-17896-145				<i>See notation on reverse</i> 		
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.	10-24-73 10-24-73						
How Fwd.	FAX						

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DE 161-1355

to appointee's alleged actions in preventing House Banking and Currency Committee investigation of Watergate and provided newspaper articles and printed statement by [ ] in support of allegation.

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DETAILS:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-11-2008 BY 60324/UC/BAW/STP/bls

## Copy to:

Report of: SA [REDACTED] Office: Detroit, Michigan  
Date: 10/19/73  
Field Office File #: 161-1355 Bureau File #:  
Title: GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

## Character:

SPECIAL INQUIRY

## Synopsis:

Honorary degree Aquinas College verified. Employments verified. Membership in State Bar of Michigan verified. Federal and local judges, educators, Michigan State officials, members of Michigan State Legislature of both major Parties, Assistant United States Attorneys, City officials of Grand Rapids and other Michigan cities, religious leaders, labor leaders, members of minority groups, news media executives, law enforcement officials, businessmen, acquaintances, associates, political opponents interviewed. Most recommended. Residences of appointee's relatives verified. No derogatory credit. Arrests negative for appointee and members of family with exception of traffic violation set forth for appointee. Complaint made that FORD family paint company accused of polluting drain but nothing done by State because appointee involved. Water Commissioner stated they never received such complaint. Rumored that appointee had a marriage annulled. Appointee's brother stated appointee never married except to present wife. Interview of [REDACTED] in connection with "The Washington Pay-Off" set forth. Attorney heard rumor that family-owned paint company made lot of money on Government contracts. Business competitor advised he never heard any such rumors. [REDACTED] objected



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. EDUCATION.....	4
II. EMPLOYMENT.....	5
III. EDUCATORS.....	20
IV. BAR ASSOCIATION.....	34
V. FEDERAL JUDGES.....	35
VI. STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIARY.....	39
VII. STATE OF MICHIGAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.....	42
VIII. MEMBERS OF MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE.....	52
IX. UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS.....	88
X. CITY OFFICIALS.....	90
XI. COUNTY OFFICIALS.....	105
XII. REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS.....	111
XIII. <b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS</b> .....	124
XIV. POLITICAL OPPONENTS.....	138
XV. RELIGIOUS LEADERS.....	140
XVI. LABOR LEADERS.....	143
XVII. PROMINENT MEMBERS OF MINORITY GROUPS.....	154
XVIII. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.....	156
XIX. NEWS MEDIA.....	167
XX. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.....	183
XXI. MARRIAGE.....	191
XXII. BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY.....	195

XXIII.	ASSOCIATES.....	Page
XXIV.	ORGANIZATIONS.....	348
XXV.	RELATIVES.....	469
XXVI.	CREDIT.....	473
XXVII.	ARREST.....	476
XXVIII.	ALLEGATIONS.....	480
		487

EDUCATION

DE 161-1355  
EWK:jas - 1

EDUCATION

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], on October 19, 1973, at Grand  
Rapids, Michigan:

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[REDACTED] Secretary, Alumni Association,  
Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, advised that during the 1965  
commencement exercises for Aquinas College, Mr. FORD received  
an honorary degree as a Doctor of Law.

DE 161-1355  
LAB/clc/bjm - 1

EMPLOYMENT

The following investigation was conducted on October 18, 1973, by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

RICHARD FORD, brother of appointee, advised emphatically that his brother, GERALD FORD, has never been married prior to his present marriage [redacted]

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RICHARD FORD advised that while the appointee was in high school, from 1928 to 1931, he worked summers for his father at the Ford Paint and Varnish Company in Grand Rapids. RICHARD advised he was not positive of the summers the appointee worked at the company, but knew that he was employed there for three summers. He advised he may have worked the summer of his freshman year in college, but could not say with certainty. RICHARD stated that following graduation from high school, the appointee attended the University of Michigan from 1931 to 1935, and thereafter went to University of Michigan Law School from 1935 to 1938, obtaining a Law Degree. He advised he was not positive of the dates, but felt the appointee then attended Yale from 1938 to 1939, and worked for "Ducky" POND as assistant football coach and boxing coach while he obtained a Masters Degree in Law. RICHARD advised two of these summers (the summers he attended Law School at Yale Graduate School) the appointee was employed at Yellowstone National Park as a park ranger. He advised he could not be positive of the exact dates due to the length of time involved.

RICHARD advised the appointee attended South High School through his senior year even though he and the family moved to 2163 Lake Drive, Grand Rapids, Michigan, before the appointee's senior year. He advised the school district allowed him to complete his senior year at South High School even though his family resided in a different school district.

DE 161-1355  
DLB/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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ROBERT W. DILLEY, Attorney, 545 Old Kent Bank Building, Grand Rapids, was interviewed in connection with Michigan Articles of Incorporation which were filed with the Kent County, Michigan, Clerk on October 14, 1947, for a corporation known as "All-Veterans Housing Committee, Inc." The Articles of Incorporation list ROBERT W. DILLEY, along with JOHN B. MARTIN, JR., A. ROBERT KLEINER and GERALD R. FORD, JR., as members of the Board of Directors.

DILLEY advised that after World War II there was a tremendous shortage of housing in the United States for returning veterans and that as a result a man in Grand Rapids by the name of GEORGE WELCH, now 90 years of age and a former publisher, started a program for the construction of emergency housing for the veterans in the Grand Rapids area. He proposed building short-term housing, using some type of government funds on city owned property with the housing so constructed to be torn down after replacement housing is available. DILLEY stated that this program met with a lot of opposition in the city and that it was defeated on referendum ballot. The corporation known as "All-Veterans Housing Committee, Inc." was formed to get people to boost GEORGE WELCH's program or some similar program in the Grand Rapids area. DILLEY stated that the corporation held only two or three meetings and that after WELCH's program was defeated the members of the corporation lost interest in the idea and the corporation was dissolved. DILLEY stated that if the corporation raised \$1,000.00 it would be an extravagant estimate and that the money raised most likely came from the personal donations of members of the corporation. He stated that any funds raised by the corporation were spent for advertising, supplies or preparation and mailing of leaflets. He stated that the persons who worked with the corporation resulted in the nucleus of the organization that backed GERALD FORD in his 1948 campaign against BARNEY YOUNGMAN.

EMPLOYMENTS

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EMPLOYMENT

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

PHYLLIS J. HOUSE, Deputy County Clerk, Kent County, Grand Rapids, made available Articles of Incorporation, File Number 3974, which indicated that Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Kent County Clerk on October 14, 1947, for a corporation named "All-Veterans Housing Committee, Incorporated." The purpose of this corporation was listed as: "To educate the public to the need for more housing, to stimulate all measures which will provide for and expedite building of rental housing, whether under municipal or private auspices, to cooperate with all groups, both public and private, interested and working for adequate housing and in general to do and promote any and all things or measures which will aid or result in adequate housing." The location of the corporation was Grand Rapids in the County of Kent, Michigan. Post Office address of registered office was 324 Michigan Trust Building, Grand Rapids. The corporation was organized upon a non-stock basis. The amount of assets which the corporation possessed was not in terms of both real and personal property. The corporation was to be financed by donations from public-spirited citizens who were interested in promoting the objectives and purposes of this corporation.

The names and places of residence or business of each of the incorporators is as follows:

JOHN B. MARTIN, JR., 324 Michigan Trust Building,  
Grand Rapids.

A. ROBERT KLEINER, 1319 Grand Rapids National Bank  
Building, Grand Rapids.

ROBERT W. DILLEY, 545 Michigan Trust Building,  
Grand Rapids.

GERALD R. FORD, JR., 500 Michigan Trust Building,  
Grand Rapids.



DE 161-1355  
DLB/emv - 2

The names and addresses of the first Board of Directors were as follows:

JOHN B. MARTIN., 324 Michigan Trust Building,  
Grand Rapids.

A. ROBERT KLEINER, 1319 Grand Rapids National  
Bank Building, Grand Rapids.

ROBERT W. DILLEY, 545 Michigan Trust Building,  
Grand Rapids.

GERALD R. FORD, JR., 500 Michigan Trust Building,  
Grand Rapids.

The term of the corporation was thirty years.

The Articles of Incorporation were signed by  
JOHN B. MARTIN, JR., A. ROBERT KLEINER, ROBERT W. DILLEY,  
and GERALD R. FORD, JR., on October 6, 1947.

On September 7, 1948, a Certificate of Dissolution  
was filed by the same corporation and signed on August 30,  
1948, by A. ROBERT KLEINER, JOHN B. MARTIN, JR., and ROBERT  
W. DILLEY who represented three-fourths of the members of  
the corporation.

DE 161-1355

EGP/mpr - 1

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

FRANK J. PENNONI, Chief, Purchasing Division, Department of Management and Budget, State of Michigan, advised he has been employed in a career service capacity in that Department since 1950 with various purchasing responsibilities. His division is responsible for purchases for the State of Michigan other than real property. He has never met Mr. GERALD FORD, but is acquainted with TOM FORD, his brother.

Until about two years ago, the FORD family of Grand Rapids, Michigan, owned the Ford Paint and Varnish Company, and TOM FORD had represented this company in the sales of its products. PENNONI stated all purchases of paint and similar materials by the State of Michigan is by sealed, competitive bids and this system does not lend itself to exertion of political pressure to encourage favoritism toward one company over another. He said that in all his years in the Department, which was formerly known as the Department of Administration, no pressure has come to his attention indicating an attempt on the part of Mr. FORD, members of his family or the office of Mr. GERALD FORD to gain an advantage in the sale of paints to the State of Michigan. PENNONI has known TOM FORD since about 1955 as a result of his past representation of the Ford Paint and Varnish Company, and has met DICK FORD, who worked in the company laboratory, once or twice.

Approximately two years ago, the Standard of Detroit Paint Company bought out the Ford Paint and Varnish Company and to his knowledge, none of the FORD family retained an interest in the firm.

PENNONI stated that as a result of his contacts with paint salesmen during the period of approximately 1955 - 1963, he heard from unrecalled sources many unverified statements indicating that the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, purchased all its paint and varnishes from the Ford Paint and

DE 161-1355

EGP/mpr - 2

Varnish Company and it was considered useless for salesmen from other companies to attempt to sell their products to the University. The father of Mr. GERALD FORD was reported to be on the Board of Regents about that period of time, and this was considered the reason why the University bought only from the Ford Paint and Varnish Company. PENNONI emphasized this was only rumor and he had no personal knowledge this was the case, but was merely reporting what he had heard. He said he personally knows nothing of a derogatory nature regarding the FORD family and has the highest regard for Mr. GERALD FORD.

HERBERT C. DE JONGE, Deputy Director, Department of Management and Budget, State of Michigan, advised his department had been known as the Department of Administration until July, 1973, and is now called the Department of Management and Budget. DE JONGE said he had been with this department for several years, starting in 1958 in the career service. He was born in Grand Rapids, but knows Mr. GERALD FORD only by name and stated the FORD family enjoys a good reputation in Grand Rapids. He is personally acquainted with TOM FORD, who is well known in the Lansing area, and stated he knows of no information of an unfavorable nature concerning the FORD family.

DE JONGE stated his department is engaged in the acquisition of property, construction of buildings and purchasing of supplies and equipment for the State of Michigan and in his experience in the department, there has never been any sort of attempt by Mr. GERALD FORD, his office or members of his family, or anyone else to influence decisions by his department as to selection of contractors or suppliers.

BARRY BROWN, Director, Department of Labor, State of Michigan, 300 East Michigan Avenue, advised he has been with that department for five years, is not personally acquainted with Congressman GERALD FORD, and knows him only by reputation, which is excellent. His department has had contact with Mr. FORD's office only regarding usual inquiries regarding matters of mutual interest and these inquiries are answered promptly with whatever information was requested. Mr. FORD, his office

DE 161-1355  
EGP/mpr - 3

and his family have never attempted to exert any pressure on his department in an effort to influence the hiring of personnel or any other action conflicting with their positions as servants of the public.

DE 161-1355  
HMB/pap - 1

EMPLOYMENT

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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Mr. ROGER LAW, Partner, BUCHEN, WEATHERS, RICHARDSON, and DUTCHER, Attorneys at Law, Suite 740, Old Kent Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he is too junior a partner to have known Mr. FORD when he was associated with that firm, and he is too politically inactive to have known of him in that capacity. He further advised that he knows Mr. FORD by reputation only and that reputation is excellent. He advised he could make no additional comments and he did not feel qualified to make a recommendation concerning Mr. FORD's appointment.

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LAB/cjn:clc - 1

EMPLOYMENT

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

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EDWARD STANKUS, 2212 Richmond NW, employed as a tinter and shader, Ford Paint and Varnish Company, Grand Rapids, advised he has been employed at the Ford Paint and Varnish Company since the early 1920's. He was working at this company when GERALD FORD was employed as a helper. He advised Mr. FORD worked at the company for three summers, but could not say with certainty which years he worked there. He believed it was the last few years of Mr. FORD's high school years and perhaps the early years of college.

Mr. STANKUS said he never had reason to question Mr. FORD's character, loyalty or associates.

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HMB/srd - 1

EMPLOYMENT

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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ROBERT RICHARDSON, Partner of Law, Buchen, Weathers, Richardson and Dutcher, Attorneys at Law, Suite 740, Old Kent Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known Mr. FORD since January, 1947, when Mr. FORD was associated with that law firm, then known as Butterfield, Keeting, and Amberg. He said Mr. FORD was an associate of that firm and was elected to Congress in 1948. Mr. FORD departed for Washington, D.C. in 1949.

He said his association with Mr. FORD has been limited since he was first elected in 1948. He believes that Mr. FORD's character and morals are impeccable, and his associates and reputation are of the highest caliber. He considers Mr. FORD's most outstanding trait to be his unwavering loyalty and devotion to the United States of America and the American way of life.

He advised Mr. FORD was a good attorney when practicing law, but he did not have enough experience to have been considered as an excellent lawyer. All the legal problems that he handled were done in a good manner. He advised he knows of nothing unfavorable regarding Mr. FORD, either in business or politics. He advised he does not know Mr. FORD or any member of his family to have any personal or social problems.

Mr. RICHARDSON said he would highly recommend Mr. FORD for the Vice Presidency of the United States, as he feels Mr. FORD is extremely well qualified.

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JRC:jas - 1

EMPLOYMENT

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Ann Arbor, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

Mr. JOSEPH B. FOSTER, President, Ann Arbor Bank,  
Ann Arbor, advised as follows:

He was a classmate and fraternity brother of  
GERALD FORD in the period of 1931 to 1934, while both  
were attending the University of Michigan. He became  
well acquainted with Mr. FORD at that time, and has had  
intermittent contact with him in the past years through  
conferences of the State Bankers Association, public  
appearances at Ann Arbor, and on occasion at Washington,  
D.C.

He said that while they are not close personal  
friends, they are long time acquaintances.

He recalled that during their close three year  
acquaintance, when both were closely associated in the  
Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, Ann Arbor, from 1931 to  
1933, he knew GERALD FORD to be employed in the Fraternity  
house where he did housework to help defray costs of his  
education. He said he recalled that GERALD FORD later  
became House Manager of that Fraternity, in which he was  
uniformly well regarded by his contemporaries.

During this same period, he recalled GERALD FORD  
distinguished himself and his school with his athletic  
prowess in a variety of sports, most significantly, football.

He knew him then and now as a hard working,  
completely sincere individual, whose integrity is above  
reproach. He added that he knew Mr. FORD to be scrupulously  
honest in both fact and in appearance. He recalled that  
sometime in the 1960s, Mr. FORD was appointed to and accepted  
a position as a member of the Board of Directors of the Old  
Kent State Bank in Grand Rapids, Michigan. At the time,



DE 161-1355  
JRC:jas - 2

he said, a question was raised as to the propriety of such service, in view of his position in the United States Congress.

GERALD FORD served in this capacity for only a brief time. He then dropped the position, reportedly because he did not wish to hold the appearance of conflict of interest.

He said he had no information as to GERALD FORD's competence as an attorney, but considered him a distinguished member of Congress, completely fair in all aspects of his legal considerations.

In his entire experience, he said, he had never heard a valid word of criticism of Mr. FORD's conduct, either affecting his personal life or his official life as a member of Congress.

He added he would wholeheartedly and enthusiastically recommend GERALD FORD for the position to which he has been named.

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RLM/clc - 1

EMPLOYMENT

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED], at Ann Arbor, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

Mr. CLARENCE M. MARKHAM, Providence Mutual Insurance Agency, 15 Research Drive, Ann Arbor, who is a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon at 1912 Gettes Avenue, advised that the chapter has been discontinued at the University of Michigan. He stated that the house burned to the ground and no records are available.

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EWK/emv - 1

#### EMPLOYMENT

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

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TYRUS WESSELL, Vice President, Davenport College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, stated that he has been associated with Davenport College for over 40 years. WESSELL stated he is personally aware that GERALD R. FORD, JR. worked part time at Davenport College in 1937-38 until 1941. WESSELL advised Mr. FORD taught law on an evening college basis when needed prior to World War II. WESSELL stated that there are no permanent records of employment for Mr. FORD left at Davenport College. WESSELL advised Mr. FORD taught at Davenport College to supplement his income and compiled an excellent work record while associated with Davenport College. WESSELL advised Mr. FORD left Davenport College to enter the Armed Forces during World War II.

In addition, WESSELL stated he knew Mr. FORD while he and Mr. FORD were attending high school and both played football on opposing high school teams. WESSELL advised that Mr. FORD has always had an excellent reputation as being a true and interested representative of his constituency. WESSELL stated Mr. FORD frequently addressed Davenport College classes and always was interested in the welfare of all students. WESSELL advised he believed Mr. FORD to be honest, sincere and a highly ethical person.

WESSELL stated he has seen Mr. FORD on several occasions since Mr. FORD has taken up permanent residence in Washington, D.C. WESSELL advised he believes Mr. FORD to be a highly qualified person and believes he will do an excellent job wherever he may be.

In conclusion, WESSELL stated emphatically he has never heard anything derogatory about Representative FORD as a person or as a member of Congress.

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EMPLOYMENT

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED], on October 19, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

Mr. DAVID M. AMBERG, attorney, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has known the appointee since 1948 when he joined the law firm of Butterfield, Julius Amberg, and Buchen. He advised that JULIUS AMBERG was his father and has since deceased, as has BUTTERFIELD. He was advised that partners in this law firm also included GERALD R. FORD, ROBERT RICHARDS, and NIEL WEATHERS.

GERALD FORD was elected to Congress in 1948. However, he maintained his partnership in the firm until sometime in the middle 1950's, when he dropped out. Mr. AMBERG stated that he, himself, left the law firm in 1966 to go into his own practice. The law firm has continued under PHILIP BUCHEN, ROBERT RICHARDS, and NIEL WEATHERS, until the present time. Mr. AMBERG highly recommends GERALD FORD for any position of trust and confidence with the United States Government. He stated that he has known Mr. FORD primarily as a business associate.

He knows of no derogatory information in Mr. FORD's business practices or personal background.

He stated that Mr. FORD has always performed in a courteous and professional fashion, and he considers the appointee to be open-minded and a proponent of civil rights law.

EDUCATORS

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MEMORANDUM

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Valley State Col-  
lege, Allendale, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

BRYON LOSSIN, Vice President, Grand Valley State  
College, provided the following information:

LOSSIN stated that he has known the appointee  
for the last five years through various meetings and  
speaking engagements in Grand Rapids and at the college.

Although he personally does not agree with all of  
the appointee's political views, he has the utmost respect  
for the appointee, both as a man and a politician. He is  
a man of astonishing persistence and thoroughness. He is  
amazingly unshaken in times of stress and a very stable  
man. As a Congressman, LOSSIN stated appointee is truly  
a representative of all the people in his district. He  
will help anyone no matter what their political affiliation.

LOSSIN stated that the appointee's character,  
morals, loyalty to the country, and his associates are  
beyond question. He stated that people can trust appointee  
and have confidence in him.

LOSSIN stated he highly recommended the appointee  
for the position of Vice President.

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WNA/lk - 1

EDUCATORS

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
 at Sparta, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

ROBERT QUAY, Principal, Sparta High School, stated he first met Mr. FORD approximately eight years ago when Mr. FORD came to his school to speak to the students on politics. Since that time Mr. FORD has returned to address the students on numerous occasions and QUAY has been impressed by his honesty and frankness. Mr. FORD is a loyal citizen with high moral values who has never been involved in any questionable activities. Mr. FORD's associates are all leaders of the community with perfect records. QUAY believes Mr. FORD has treated all of his constituents most fairly in the past and if he should become Vice President, QUAY feels he will favor additional civil rights legislation.

In closing, QUAY stated Mr. FORD's twenty five years in Washington, D.C. with an outstanding record more than qualifies him for the position of Vice President of the United States.

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WSN/bjk/lk - 1

EDUCATORS

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17,  
1973:

Mr. DANIEL PILON, Assistant to the President and in charge of public relations of Aquinas College, 1607 Robinson Road, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, stated that he does not know GERALD R. FORD personally, but has met him and dealt with him on a professional basis in conjunction with Aquinas College.

He stated that Mr. FORD has been most helpful and cooperative in providing grants and other personal services to the college and he is very satisfied with him in this respect.

Mr. PILON knows of no one who is dissatisfied with him and he stated that since he did not personally know him, he could not make a judgement on his morals, integrity, or loyalty, but knows no derogatory information regarding him.



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EDUCATORS

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

JOHN VANDEN BERG, Dean of Calvin College, Grand Rapids, advised he has no social contact with GERALD FORD; however, he has been in contact with Mr. FORD for approximately 12 years through numerous educational positions which he has held, including the Citizens for Educational Freedom. He stated he has observed Mr. FORD to be a hardworking individual who has always been honest and sincere in all matters.

VANDEN BERG advised that he has never been aware of any derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD's character, morals, loyalty to the Government, or associates. He stated that he knows Mr. FORD's stepbrother and that his family life appears to be ideal. He stated that Mr. FORD has no enemies even though he is a Republican and holds many conservative views with which numerous liberals in the area disagree.

VANDEN BERG stated that he (VANDEN BERG) was active for four years as a member of the City Commission, which is a non-partisan position, and he became aware of the tremendous respect for Mr. FORD by both Republicans and Democrats due to Mr. FORD's hard work and honesty while in office. VANDEN BERG advised that he would most favorably recommend Mr. FORD for the position to which he has been appointed.

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WSN/cjn - 1

EDUCATORS

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

JANE IDEMA, Director of the Encore Program,  
Aquinas College, 1900 Robinson Road, Southeast, Grand  
Rapids, Michigan, provided the following information:

She stated that she has known GERALD R. FORD,  
JR. on a social basis for 30 years and that she attended  
East Grand Rapids High School with his brother TOM.

She stated that appointee FORD has his own  
opinions and is very forceful in his opinions, but that he  
listens to the people and has a great feeling for the  
community and is very well thought of.

She further stated that there is absolutely no  
question of his morality, integrity and loyalty and she  
holds him in the highest regard.

DE 161-1355  
WSN/bjk:clc - 1

EDUCATOR

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17,  
1973:

HUGH D. ALLEN, Vice-President for Development of Aquinas College, 1607 Robinson Road, SE, Grand Rapids, advised he is a resident of Grand Rapids and has held his position at the college for two and one-half years. He advised he has had very little contact with GERALD R. FORD, but stated Mr. FORD is very attentive to community problems and knows of no reason why Mr. FORD should not be appointed to the Vice Presidency.

He stated that since he did not personally know Mr. FORD, he could not comment on his morals, integrity or loyalty, but he has never heard of any derogatory information concerning him.

DE 161-1355  
MJF/lk - 1

EDUCATOR

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

WILLIAM SPOELHOF, President of Calvin College, provided the following information:

He has known the appointee for the last twenty-four years; however, he has only limited communication with the appointee and his associates. He stated that the appointee is a man of integrity, honesty, intense loyalty, and trust. To his knowledge, the appointee has never placed any pressure on anyone who is in a position that could benefit him.

Everyone in this community has the utmost respect for the appointee, although many in this area do not agree with his political viewpoints. He is very impartial with all his constituents and never discriminates with respect to anyone. He is a very capable leader who has the ability to produce things for his district.

SPOELHOF stated he knows nothing that would be embarrassing to the appointee, any member of his family, or his political staff.

As to a recommendation for the position of Vice-President, he stated that the appointee is not a brilliant leader that the office of Vice-President of the United States requires, but he is a competent and adequate man who could do the job with regard to the present situation in Washington, D.C.

SPOELHOF stated that he is a Republican and supports the Republican Party as much as possible.

DE 161-1355  
JMF/bjk/mmr - 1

EDUCATOR

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17,  
1973:

M. HOWARD RIENSTRA, Professor of History, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, and City Commissioner, Grand Rapids, stated he has known Mr. FORD for approximately eight years both in Washington, D.C., and in Grand Rapids. Although he does not agree with Mr. FORD on some political issues, RIENSTRA stated that he is very capable politically and has the unique ability to deliver what he promises. He is totally unbiased and fair with all his constituents.

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With respect to a recommendation for the position of Vice President of the United States, Mr. RIENSTRA stated he would recommend him; however, he does not think Mr. FORD has national exposure which the job demands. He also feels Mr. FORD does not have the standard of excellence a Vice President should possess, according to Mr. RIENSTRA.

During the last election, RIENSTRA stated that he remembers something about improper registration of funds. The group was believed to be either "Lap's Funds" for FORD or the "Lithuanian Funds for Ford". The group was operating out of the West Side of Grand Rapids.

Also, there were rumors being spread in Washington, D.C., during December of 1972, by Congressman JOHN ANDERSON of Illinois. The rumor was that [ ] was [ ] in the Washington, D.C., area. [ ] discussed this matter with a representative of FORD's staff in Grand Rapids. RIENSTRA stated that he does not know whether FORD himself was made aware of the situation, but he, RIENSTRA, was told by someone that [ ] was [ ]. This is the way [ ] understood that the FORD staff explained the rumor.

RIENSTRA stated he knew of nothing negative regarding Mr. FORD's loyalty, character or morals.

DE 161-1355  
MAT/emv - 1

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted], on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

Professor HAROLD DEKKER, Calvin College, advised that he presently holds the position of City Commissioner, which is non-partisan in nature. He advised that he was familiar with appointee GERALD FORD from a professional standpoint and has never met socially with appointee or his family, but feels that his experiences with Mr. FORD have been enough to convince him that the appointment of Mr. FORD to Vice President of the United States will be in the best interests of the country. He stated that Mr. FORD possesses a high character with integrity and stability needed for such a position. He stated that Mr. FORD's loyalty to the country is beyond reproach and that the qualities possessed by him would do much to improve the confidence in the United States and bring greater national unity. He stated that he was aware of no derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD's family or associates. He stated that he is familiar with many of Mr. FORD's political opponents and that Mr. FORD was never discussed by these opponents as being politically dissembled or devious in any way. He added that Mr. FORD was the type of individual who would never abuse his position for his own personal advantage. DEKKER stated he would very definitely recommend, without reservations, Mr. FORD to this appointed position with the United States Government.

DE 161-1355  
JHC/cel - 1

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b7C

EDUCATOR

The following investigation was conducted by SA   
 at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

RICHARD WHERITY, Associate Dean, Grand Rapids Junior College, stated that he did not know the appointee personally, but he knows him through his speeches at the college and numerous letters to his office. He has also met Mr. FORD at Lion's Club meetings which Mr. FORD has attended.

As far as Mr. FORD's loyalty, character and integrity, there is no doubt as to those attributes. He is a very fair and nondiscriminating politician. Mr. FORD is very responsive to the needs of his constituents in his home district. Mr. FORD spends more time within his district than any other congressman in the United States. He is truly a dedicated man who does a very good job for his district.

With regard to recommendation for the vice presidency, WHERITY stated he would fully support Mr. FORD as Vice President and he would be an asset to this office.

DE 161-1355  
JMF/cjn - 1

EDUCATOR

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

DONALD R. BLACK, Dean of Student Affairs, Grand Rapids Junior College, advised the appointee has made numerous speeches at the Junior College and he is well liked by the faculty and accepted by the students.

Mr. BLACK advised the appointee's loyalty, reputation, character, and morals are above reproach. He is a man who is probably more honest than anyone else in Congress. His record speaks for itself; he has always received at least sixty percent of the votes cast in elections. He is a man who will help anyone no matter what their political affiliations.

BLACK stated that he has never heard of derogatory information on the appointee or his family and he would doubt seriously if there is anything of that nature. He advised the appointee is above the run-of-the-mill politician and always conducts himself as a gentleman.

BLACK said that he would totally recommend the appointee to the office of Vice President of the United States with no reservation.

DONALD BLACK stated that he is an Independent with respect to politics and he has known the appointee since 1958.



DE 161-1355  
MAT:jas - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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Doctor ROELOF BIJERK advised that he has been  
[redacted]  
[redacted] appointed to the position of  
Chairman of the Psychology Department at Grand Valley  
State College, a position which he is presently holding.  
He served on the staff for nine years at Calvin College  
in Grand Rapids. BIJERK advised that although he could  
not vote in the United States he did not feel that it  
was his position to make recommendations regarding Mr.  
FORD's appointment as Vice President, however, he stated  
that he would comment as to his knowledge of Mr. FORD,  
which he has obtained through his educational experiences  
and positions which he has held at the colleges in Grand  
Rapids. BIJERK stated that Mr. FORD was a very straight-  
forward and honest individual and that he has never  
heard any derogatory remarks as to Mr. FORD's character,  
morals or associates. BIJERK advised that Mr. FORD was  
very conscious of individuals civil rights regardless  
of their race or political party and that he had no  
reason to doubt his loyalty to the country. BIJERK ad-  
vised that the only complaints he had ever heard politi-  
cally regarding Mr. FORD were to the effect that Mr.  
FORD was too conservative, and he added that these remarks  
were made by liberals who in turn respected Mr. FORD even  
though they were of different political parties.

DE 161-1355  
WSN/lk:clc - 1

EDUCATOR

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17,

b6  
b7c

1973:

Mr. J. C. KOLDERMAN, Director of the Grand Rapids  
and Saginaw Public Schools, residence [redacted]  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known GERALD R. FORD  
both professionally and socially since the early 1950s.

He stated that he has the highest regard and utmost  
respect for Mr. FORD and thinks he would make a fine Vice  
President.

Mr. KOLDERMAN advised he has never heard anything  
unfavorable regarding Mr. FORD's character or his associates.  
He stated Mr. FORD was a very fine person and was of the  
highest quality as far as morals, honesty and loyalty were  
concerned.

DE 161-1355  
WNA/lk - 1

EDUCATORS

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] at Sparta, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

CHARLES HORNBROOK, Assistant Principal, Sparta High School, advised that he first met Mr. FORD when he spoke at the high school approximately fifteen years ago. HORNBROOK was impressed by Mr. FORD's honesty and straightforwardness. Mr. FORD is a man of principles and a strong supporter of civil rights legislation. In his numerous appearances at the Sparta High School, Mr. FORD has always been well received by the student body. Mr. FORD has always managed to visit frequently with many of his constituents and is genuinely concerned with the little man's problems. HORNBROOK has never heard any derogatory remarks or rumors regarding GERALD R. FORD. Mr. FORD's loyalty, character, and personal life are examples for others to live by and it is HORNBROOK's opinion he is the best possible choice for Vice President of the United States.

BAR ASSOCIATIONS

DE 161-1355  
BEY:jfd - 1

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

Mr. MICHAEL FRANKS, Executive Director, State Bar of Michigan, 306 South Townsend, advised he is not well acquainted with appointee, GERALD R. FORD, personally, but knows of him, has no reservations whatsoever regarding appointee and he would recommend him for the position of Vice President of the United States. Mr. FRANKS stated that since he did not know appointee as a close personal acquaintance, he could not comment further personally.

Mr. FRANKS continued that appointee was admitted to the State Bar June 7, 1941, under the name of GERALD R. FORD, JR., having a date of birth of July 14, 1913, at Omaha, Nebraska. In June, 1941, appointee's business address was shown as 621 Michigan Trust Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and his residence address as 1011 Santa Cruz Drive, Grand Rapids. He indicated that his office was located in the 17th Judicial District of Michigan. His father's name was shown as LESLIE KING and he indicated that his father and mother were divorced and he had lived with his mother and present husband, appointee's stepfather, GERALD R. FORD, SR., for over 24 years.

The records indicated he attended South High, received a high school diploma in June, 1931, attended the University of Michigan, from September, 1931 to June, 1935, at which time he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts. From February, 1938 to February, 1941, he attended Yale Law School, at which time he received his law degree. He indicated in 1941, in addition to his residence address above, he also resided at the Yale Athletic Association, New Haven, Connecticut. He also indicated he was affiliated with the firm of Ford and Buchen, 621 Michigan Trust Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

FEDERAL JUDGES

Best Available Copy

DA 161-1355  
RFD:cg/Ord - 1

FEDERAL JUDGES

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Mich-  
igan, on October 16, 1973:

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The Honorable ROSE R. FOX, Chief Judge, United States District Court, Western District of Michigan, advised that he has known appointee for approximately 25 years. Judge FOX stated that prior to his becoming a judge, he was a member of the Democratic Party and opposed some of the political issues of appointee, GERALD FORD.

Judge FOX advised that he considers appointee to be a very capable administrator and a highly organized person. He knows of nothing questionable concerning appointee's character, morals, or associates, and further knows of no reason why appointee should not be confirmed by Congress as Vice President of the United States.

Judge FOX mentioned that appointee enjoys an excellent reputation in the community and is held in the highest regard by leading blacks in the community.

Judge FOX stated that he would highly recommend appointee for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
RFB/cp:kc -1

FEDERAL JUDGES

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
on October 16, 1973:

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ALBERT J. ENGEL, United States District Court Judge, for the Western District of Michigan, advised that he has known appointee since 1948. He first became acquainted with appointee, GERALD FORD, through his father, when his father was a member of the Congress of the United States. He became more closely associated with appointee in 1951, when he was Administrative Assistant to Congresswoman RUTH THOMPSON, and JOHN P. MILANOWSKI, United States Attorney, Western District of Michigan, was Administrative Assistant to appointee.

Judge ENGEL stated that appointee is immensely well liked by the community and is known to be an individual who can objectively look at an issue without becoming involved in it personally. He further stated that appointee was a very well organized person and has been able to maintain a highly efficient staff in his office through the years.

Judge ENGEL considers the appointee to be of excellent character, have high moral values, and knows of absolutely no reasons why appointee should not become confirmed by the Congress as the Vice President of the United States.

He further stated that appointee is a very loyal, dedicated civil servant, and he would highly recommend him for the position of Vice President.



DE 161-1355  
KSB/cp/lk - 1

FEDERAL JUDGES

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17,  
1973:

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Judge EDWARD H. BENSON, 1848 Union Boulevard, SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number CH. 5-5764, was interviewed in his office in the Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Judge BENSON is a Bankruptcy Federal Judge in the Western District of Michigan, Southern Division, telephone number 456-2231.

Judge BENSON's association with Appointee GERALD FORD started in 1940 when he was associated with Mr. FORD as a member of the Grand Rapids Junior Chamber of Commerce. BENSON resigned in 1941 from the Board of Directors of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. BENSON remembers Mr. FORD as an active member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce who performed outstanding service in projects involving underprivileged children. BENSON has been impressed with Congressman FORD as an able and honest politician since his campaign in 1948. BENSON advised that he regards Mr. FORD as an extremely hard worker who is dedicated to his country and to his constituency. BENSON stated that Mr. FORD is an excellent choice for a position of high office in the United States Government at the present time. BENSON stated in conclusion that he has regarded Mr. FORD highly from his position in the Federal Court. He has not been directly involved with Mr. FORD in the political activities in the 5th District of Michigan.

DE 161-1355  
RFB/cp/pjf - 1

FEDERAL JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17,  
1973:

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**DONALD ERWIN NIMMS, JR., Referee in Bankruptcy,**  
United States District Court, for the Western District of  
Michigan, advised that he has met appointee on only one  
occasion, and that occasion was a few years ago at a dinner  
being held for the League of Women. Judge NIMS stated that  
appointee, GERALD FORD, enjoys an excellent reputation in the  
community and is considered a very capable and conscientious  
person by members of the legal profession in Michigan. He  
further stated that he has heard nothing of a derogatory  
nature concerning appointee's character, morals, or associates.

STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIARY

DE 161-1355  
RCD/cjn/dll - 1

STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIARY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ROBERT C. DU HADWAY on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

Judge J. ROBERT SMOLENSKI, 61st District Court,  
333 Monroe Avenue, Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
advised he has known appointee for approximately 25 years  
on both a social and political basis. He stated appointee  
is a real gentleman, a good family man, and he has an excellent  
moral character. He stated as far as he knows, appointee's  
associates are above reproach and are of good moral character  
and reputation.

He stated he knows appointee's wife and family  
and that they enjoy an outstanding reputation in the  
community. He added he knows of no derogatory information  
regarding appointee or his family. He stated appointee  
practiced law in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and that he was  
held in high esteem by his constituents. He stated appointee  
is a fair and just man and very conscious of people's civil  
rights.

He stated appointee is a fair, honest, hard-  
working man and possesses all qualifications necessary to  
be the Vice President of the United States. He stated appointee  
is a loyal American and he recommends appointee for the position  
of Vice President of the United States without reservation.

DE 161-1355  
EHH/lim - 1

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [redacted] at Muir, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

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Mr. C. RONALD VAN BUREN, 64th District Judge for the State of Michigan, Hays Road, Muir, Michigan, advised he does not know Mr. GERALD R. FORD personally but is aware of the fact that Mr. FORD is highly regarded as a Congressman for the State of Michigan.

Mr. VAN BUREN believes Mr. FORD will make an outstanding Vice President.

Mr. VAN BUREN stated he is aware that Mr. FORD enjoys a public reputation as a man of the highest integrity and morals.

Mr. VAN BUREN knew of no derogatory information which would preclude Mr. FORD from becoming Vice President. Mr. VAN BUREN stated he was not aware of Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney as he has never had any contact with Mr. FORD as a practicing attorney.

DE 161-1355  
CAP/pap - 1

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b7C

JUDGE PROBATE COURT

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

JOHN P. STEKETEE, Judge of the Probate Court, Juvenile Division, 1501 Cedar, Northeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known GERALD R. FORD for 10 to 15 years.

STEKETEE stated that, "if there is a Mr. Clean, it is Jerry Ford." STEKETEE stated that Mr. FORD is one of the few people who possessed all the traditional loyalties and he can not be faulted for character or morals. Mr. FORD is not a flashy speaker and thus is not colorful, but he is a straight talker and makes his point strongly, fairly, and will fight cleanly for his beliefs and principles. He is a principled man and will not bend a principle no matter what the cost to him would be.

STEKETEE does not know of anything in FORD's past which could result in a scandal. He again stated that Mr. FORD is "Mr. Clean."

STATE OF MICHIGAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

DE 161-1355  
JRM:js - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

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b7C

RALPH K. SEELEY was contacted at his place of employment, the Mason Building, Room 131, and furnished the following information:

SEELEY stated that he is the Chief of the State of Michigan Department of Management and Budget, Building Division, and is in charge of the remodel, repair, addition and new construction of state owned institutions. His department has charge of hiring architects, engineers and contractors in letting contracts for the state owned institutions. Contracts for construction are done by open bidding and are awarded through a state administrative board. Architectural and engineering contracts are awarded based on the recommendations of the department involved after a series of interviews and if SEELEY's department concurs with the recommendation, the standard contract is awarded.

Appointee has never had any involvement to SEELEY's knowledge with his department and no contracts have ever been awarded based on appointee's influence.

SEELEY does not know appointee, but is acquainted with his brother, THOMAS FORD, when he was a State legislator and involved in his department. SEELEY considers THOMAS FORD of highest integrity and he knows of no incident in which THOMAS FORD attempted to influence the decision in the awarding of any contracts.

SEELEY is not aware of any derogatory information concerning appointee, but can make no judgment as to appointee's qualifications for Vice President.

ROGER BUSFIELD, JR. was contacted at his place of employment, Michigan Hospital Association, 2213 East Grand River, and furnished the following information:



DE 161-1355  
JRM:js/pjf - 2

BUSFIELD stated he is the Director of the Michigan Hospital Association and the Chairman of the Ingham County Republican Community. The latter position he has held for the past three years. BUSFIELD has been active in the Republican Party since 1960 in Michigan. BUSFIELD has known appointee, GERALD R. FORD, professionally and politically since 1960. From a professional basis, he has spoken with appointee on many occasions concerning bills pending in Congress, associated with hospital administration. Politically BUSFIELD has been involved with appointee in many fund raising activities for the Michigan Republican Party, including committees and various functions.

In all his dealings with appointee, BUSFIELD has found him to be fair, non-prejudicial regarding race and religion and very honest. BUSFIELD has never known appointee to be involved in any irregularities regarding fund raising for the Republican Party. BUSFIELD has never heard any derogatory information concerning appointee either personally or politically and considers him a fine choice for the Vice Presidency.

DE 161-1355  
JRM/cjn - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Lansing, Michigan, on October  
16, 1973:

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STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

B. DALE BALL, Executive Director, Michigan State Department of Agriculture, Lewis Cass Building, Lansing, Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD FORD professionally for approximately eight years. BALL has communicated on several occasions with FORD concerning pending bills in Congress of interest to BALL and has seen FORD once to discuss a pending bill. BALL stated that based on his limited contact with FORD, he cannot evaluate FORD as to his capabilities, but considers him a sincere individual. BALL has never heard nothing derogatory concerning FORD, either personally or professionally.

DE 161-1355  
BBL/mpr/jbm - 1

MICHIGAN STATE OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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ALBERT LEE, Auditor General, State of Michigan, 567 Hollister Building, telephone number 373-3773, advised that he has never met Vice Presidential appointee GERALD R. FORD. Mr. FORD has had no direct contact with LEE's office and has never had occasion to speak to LEE. LEE stated that the appointee's brother, TOM FORD, is employed by the Auditor General's office. LEE knows TOM to be a highly capable individual and knows of no derogatory information concerning either the appointee or his brother, TOM.

RICHARD K. HELBRECHT, Director, Michigan State Department of Commerce, Fourth Floor, Law Building, telephone number 373-1820, advised that he has met appointee at several official meetings since first being introduced to him in 1971. At the time of their first meeting, HELBRECHT was serving as an Assistant to the Governor of the State of Michigan. In his current position, HELBRECHT has worked with appointee and his staff on matters pertaining to Federal revenue sharing. He has found the appointee to be forthright, direct and extremely knowledgeable. He has never heard anything derogatory about appointee and he has had no social contact with appointee.

A. GENE GAZLAY, Director, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Seventh Floor, Mason Building, telephone number 373-2329, advised that he first met appointee four and one-half years to five years ago. At that time, GAZLAY was working as a Legislative Liaison for the Department of Natural Resources. In all his contacts with appointee, he has found him to be knowledgeable, responsive, fair, honest, and of high integrity. Mr. FORD has never asked GAZLAY to take a particular position on any issue and has never exerted any influence on decisions of the Department of Natural Resources. He knows of nothing derogatory and feels that the appointee is of unquestionable honesty and has a character beyond reproach.

DE 161-1355  
TWG/mpr/tsd - 2

Mr. ALLISON GREEN, State Treasurer, State of Michigan Treasury Building, Lansing, Michigan, advised that he first met Vice Presidential appointee GERALD R. FORD at a Republican Party reception in the early 1950's when Mr. FORD had just been elected U.S. Congressman and when Mr. GREEN was running for an office as a legislator in the State of Michigan. The only contacts that Mr. GREEN has ever had with Mr. FORD were at political functions and he would consider himself only a political acquaintance of Mr. FORD. Mr. GREEN advised that in his capacity of State Treasurer, he is responsible for overseeing the functions of the Department of the Treasury in the State of Michigan, which includes the collection of all State revenue, oversees the banking of this revenue, and the investments made in the interest of the State, the audit of local governments, the sale of delinquent tax property, and general administrative functions of the treasurer. In regard to those functions mentioned, Mr. GREEN stated that at no time since his appointment as State Treasurer has Mr. FORD ever contacted him in any regard to the functions of the State Treasury. In fact, Mr. GREEN stated that he does not recall ever receiving a call or message from Mr. FORD on anything or any matter. Mr. GREEN stated that during his lengthy tenure as a legislator and as the Speaker of the House of Representatives under Governor GEORGE ROMNEY, he had many opportunities to hear of Mr. FORD's political activities in Washington and Michigan. At no time has Mr. GREEN heard any derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD and in fact stated that Mr. FORD is extremely well thought of and respected in the State of Michigan.

The above investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 17, 1973.

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DE 161-1355  
TWG/mpr -1

MICHIGAN EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Lansing, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

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b7C

Mr. STEVEN BOYER ZAMIARA, Administrative Assistant Director, Department of Licensing and Regulation, 1033 South Washington Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, advised that his department is responsible for the licensing and regulation of approximately 32 different professions practiced within the State of Michigan. The agency determines qualification, residency requirements, educational or skill requirements, et cetera. Mr. ZAMIARA has been with this agency for over one year and during this period of time, his office has received many requests from congressmen and senators to resolve problems their constituents have obtaining licenses. Mr. Zamiara advised that he had limited contact with Mr. FORD in this capacity and can recall no instance where any pressure was applied, or any action out of the ordinary requested.

Mr. ZAMIARA does not know Mr. FORD personally although he grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, residing some three blocks from the FORD family paint and varnish factory. Mr. ZAMIARA knows nothing derogatory regarding Mr. FORD and had no additional information concerning Mr. FORD's contacts with his department.

DE 161-1355  
PDU/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA

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On October 17, 1973, FRANK J. KELLEY, Michigan State Attorney, General Law Building, Lansing, Michigan, advised he is not personally acquainted with appointee GERALD R. FORD. He said he is not of the political party, and consequently has never had any political contacts with appointee.

Mr. KELLEY said, however, he is of the opinion the appointee is well received by his constituents and is very competent in his representation of the 5th District in Michigan.

Mr. KELLEY said that he knows nothing of a derogatory nature regarding the appointee or his family, but would withhold any recommendations due to his limited association with the appointee.

DE 161-1355  
TSK/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

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Governor WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN, State Capitol, advised that he has been acquainted with appointee, GERALD R. FORD, since 1948. He considers him to be honest, straightforward and qualified for the position of Vice-President of the United States. Appointee, to his knowledge, is in excellent health and no information has come to his attention indicating that he or any member of his immediate family ever had any psychiatric consultations. Appointee is a very competent person of unquestionable loyalty to the United States. He has no reservations whatsoever concerning appointee's character or associates and highly recommends him for the position of Vice-President.

DE 161-1355  
MLC/jms - 1

SA [ ] The following investigation was conducted by

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b7C

On October 17, 1973, the following individuals were contacted regarding the appointee GERALD R. FORD, and all advised that they are not familiar with appointee:

RICHARD A. AUSTIN  
Secretary of State  
Lansing, Michigan

FRANK SIERAWSKI  
Director  
Department of State Services  
Lansing, Michigan

FRANK STOVER  
Assessor  
Lansing, Michigan, Township

FRED ABOOD  
Attorney  
Abood, Abood, Abood  
117 East Allegan  
Lansing, Michigan



DE 161-1355  
TSK/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

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b7C

Lieutenant Governor JAMES H. BRICKLEY, JR.,  
State Capitol, State of Michigan, advised that he has met  
appointee GERALD R. FORD on only three occasions and is not  
qualified to comment on his personal life. He is well aware  
of his public record and considers him to be competent and  
qualified for any position in the United States Government.  
He has never heard of any derogatory information concerning  
appointee or members of his immediate family.

MEMBERS OF MICHIGAN STATE LEGISLATURE

DE 161-1355  
CDM/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7C

Senator JACK FAXON, Democrat, District 7, advised that he had been a representative in Lansing since approximately 1961, but had never personally met GERALD FORD. He stated that he had never heard a derogatory remark made about GERALD FORD.

DE 161-1355  
DAT/jms/pjw -1

STATE SENATOR

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973:

b6  
b7C

GILBERT E. BURSLEY, Republican member of the  
Michigan State Senate, furnished the following information:

He has been acquainted with appointee GERALD R.  
FORD since his college days. He has had contact with  
him politically for several years recently. BURSLEY  
advised he considers appointee to be of the highest  
character. He enjoys a good reputation in the Republican  
Party. Nothing derogatory has ever come to his attention  
regarding appointee's politics or personal life. He  
would recommend appointee for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
CDM/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7C

Senator STANLEY NOVAK, Democrat, 9th District, advised that he had known GERALD FORD for approximately 10 years and had the highest regard for him. He advised that he would recommend GERALD FORD for a high Federal position and that he had never heard any rumor or implication of GERALD FORD acting in any manner but the highest of character.

DE 161-1355  
CDM/jms:clc-1

STATE DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing, Michigan:

b6  
b7C

Senator JOSEPH S. MACK, Democrat, 38th District, was interviewed and advised he had never met GERALD FORD, but had known him only through attending political events at which FORD was present. He advised that in his entire political career, he never heard any derogatory information concerning GERALD FORD or his family.

DE 161-1355  
CDM/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7C

Senator JEROME T. HART, Democrat, District 34,  
advised that he had met GERALD FORD at a political event  
and had no occasion to socialize with him. He stated that  
he had high regard for FORD and had never heard implication,  
rumor, or otherwise, any type of derogatory information.

DE 161-1355

DAT:js - 1

State Senators  
State of Michigan

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7c

OSCAR E. BOUWSNA, Republican, State Senator,  
Michigan State Senate, furnished the following information:

He advised he has been acquainted with appointee, GERALD R. FORD, both politically and socially for approximately 15 years. He advised that he considers his character to be totally unblemished. He considers him a politician of high moral character. He advised that he has never heard any derogatory information concerning appointee's character or politics, and feels he is a loyal and patriotic American citizen. He stated he would highly recommend him for the position of Vice President of the United States.

HARRY A. DE MASO, Republican, State Senator, Michigan State Senate, advised that he has been acquainted with appointee, GERALD R. FORD, since 1957. He advised his contact has been limited to political meetings and functions. He advised appointee enjoys an excellent reputation in political circles and he feels he is a very well-respected politician. He considers appointee to be of the highest moral character and integrity. Nothing derogatory has ever come to his attention which would reflect unfavorably on appointee's consideration for the position of Vice President and he would recommend him for that position.

JAMES G. FLEMING, Republican, State Senator, Michigan State Senate, furnished the following information:

He advised he has been acquainted with appointee, GERALD R. FORD, both politically and socially for approximately 10 to 12 years. He stated that he considers appointee a good, patriotic American, a good citizen and an excellent Representative. He stated that nothing which would reflect unfavorably on appointee's character or politics has ever come to his attention and he believes appointee to be an excellent choice for the position of Vice President of the United States.



DE 161-1355  
CDM/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7c

Senator ALVIN J. DE GROW, Republican, District 28, advised that he had known GERALD FORD for approximately eight years. He stated that his acquaintance was not social, but political. He stated that he had the highest regard for GERALD FORD and had never heard a slanderous remark made about FORD regarding FORD's character, conduct, reputation, or morals. He stated that he would recommend FORD for any high Federal office.

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DE 161-1355  
ODL:js - 1

Michigan State Senators

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [ ] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

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Senator ROBERT RICHARDSON, Republican, advised that he is not personally acquainted with the appointee, GERALD R. FORD, and knows him only by reputation. He considers his reputation to be excellent insofar as FORD's loyalty and integrity are concerned. He advised he recalls a minor question being raised in the newspapers a few years ago regarding \$11,700.00 in campaign funds, but does not know what the result of that rumor was. He stated he is acquainted with FORD's brother, THOMAS FORD, and considers him also to be of excellent character.

Senator L. HARVEY LODGE, Republican, advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD for many years but has not known him well. He indicated that there is no question in his mind regarding FORD's loyalty to the United States. He considers him an extremely honest and industrious man. He stated he has never heard any rumor against FORD in his contacts with FORD and considers him to be a man of high morals.

Senator PHILIP O. PITTENGER, Republican, advised he has known GERALD FORD personally for many years and in 1958, was considered for the job as FORD's administrative assistant in Washington, D.C. He did not take this job because he did not feel the salary was adequate to live in Washington. Regarding both GERALD FORD and his brother, THOMAS, who is currently working in the Capitol Building, in Lansing, Michigan, he advised that there would be no question in his mind as to the loyalty of either man nor as to the honesty of either man. He considers the family to be of excellent high moral character and indicated that he did not believe any person of less than high moral character could be repeatedly elected in the strict Dutch area surrounding Grand Rapids, Michigan. He stated he would highly recommend FORD for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
ODL:js - 2

Senator ARTHUR CARTWRIGHT, Democrat, advised that he is not acquainted with GERALD R. FORD. He stated his opinions in relation to FORD would have to be totally neutral. He indicated that he is somewhat acquainted with FORD's brother, TOM, who is currently working in the Capitol Building, Lansing, Michigan, and while they are at opposite poles politically, he considers TOM FORD an industrious, honest and loyal individual.

Senator PATRICK MC COLLOUGH, Democrat, advised that he could not consider himself personally acquainted with GERALD R. FORD, although he has met him on one occasion. Therefore, he advised his opinions would have to come from the general reputation of FORD. He indicated that FORD's general reputation among his political associates is excellent as to loyalty, honesty, industriousness and morality. He advised that he is slightly acquainted with Mr. FORD's brother, TOM, and also considers him a man of excellent character and reputation. He indicated he has not heard rumors of any wrong doing by either of these brothers.

DE 161-1355  
CDM/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7c

Senator JOHN T. BOWMAN, Democrat, District 26, advised that he had no personal acquaintance with GERALD FORD other than several political events in which they were both in attendance. He stated that he had never heard any derogatory rumor or otherwise stated about FORD. He stated that he had only heard of FORD's high character, fair play and good reputation.

DE 161-1355  
DAT:js - 1

State Senators  
State of Michigan

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7C

MICHAEL J. O'BRIEN, Assistant Democratic Leader,  
Michigan State Senate, furnished the following information:

He has known appointee, GERALD R. FORD, for 20 years. He has had contact with him politically and also socially at political functions. He stated that his contacts with appointee have always been very good and his impression of appointee is that he is a hardworking Congressman, who is loyal to his constituents. He advised that nothing unfavorable has ever come to his attention concerning appointee's character or political reputation. He would highly recommend appointee for the position of Vice President of the United States. He stated he is well-acquainted with appointee's brother, THOMAS FORD, who had been a member of the State Legislature and he considers him to be of the highest caliber.

CARL D. PURSELL, Republican Member of the Michigan State Senate, advised that he has been personally acquainted with appointee, GERALD R. FORD, for approximately seven years. His contacts have been limited to politics and political functions. He advised that he has the highest regard for the reputation of appointee and nothing unfavorable has ever come to his attention regarding appointee and he would recommend him for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
JJB/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing, Michigan:

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b7C

JOHN T. KELSEY, Democratic member, Michigan State House of Representatives, advised that he has never met appointee GERALD R. FORD and knows of no information about Mr. FORD that could be considered derogatory in nature.

DOMINIC JACOBETTI, Democratic member, Michigan State House of Representatives, stated that he has never had any dealings with GERALD FORD and has no personal knowledge of any information concerning FORD that could be considered derogatory in nature.

RAYMOND C. KEHRES, Democratic member, Michigan State House of Representatives, advised that he has never met GERALD FORD and has had no dealings with FORD on a professional or personal basis. KEHRES stated that he has no personal knowledge of any information concerning FORD that could be considered derogatory in nature.

DE 161-1355  
JRM/jms - 1

On October 17, 1973, SA [ ] conducted the following investigation at Lansing, Michigan:

b6  
b7c

The following individuals were contacted:

STATE OF MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

LUCILLE H. MC COLLOUGH, 31st District; Mr. EARL E. NELSON, 57th District; Mr. JOSEPH M. SNYDER, 74th District; Mr. STEPHEN STOPCZYNSKI, 19th District; and Mr. JACKIE VAUGHN, III, 18th District.

These above individuals do not know Mr. GERALD R. FORD, have never met him, do know his relative THOMAS FORD, a former member of the Michigan House of Representatives, and they have no knowledge to reflect on the qualifications of Mr. GERALD FORD. They expressed their pleasure with the appointment.



DE 161-1355  
FLF/jms - 1

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The following investigation was conducted on October 17, 1973, by SA [ ] at Lansing, Michigan:

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b7C

DAVID E. BONIOR, Democratic representative, 75th District, advised he is not acquainted with appointee GERALD R. FORD and that he has never heard any derogatory rumors concerning him.

GILBERT J. DI NELLO, Democratic representative, 73rd District, advised he is not acquainted with GERALD FORD, but considers him to be a good choice for the Vice Presidency.

MICHAEL J. GRIFFIN, Democratic representative, 50th District, advised he is not acquainted with GERALD FORD, and further advised he only knows of his reputation, which is exceptional.

CHARLIE J. HARRISON, JR., Democratic representative, 62nd District, advised he is not acquainted with GERALD FORD in any capacity, having never dealt with him personally or politically.

DE 161-1355  
RBO/mpr:clc - 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

R. DOUGLAS TREZISE, Michigan Legislature, 515 Monroe Avenue, Owosso, Michigan, advised he had formerly been an electrical engineer with General Telephone Company before becoming a member of the Michigan House of Representatives. He added that he has been associated with the appointee, Mr. GERALD R. FORD, only on a social basis through Republican Party functions. He advised he is not aware of any individuals who are of a questionable character known to associate with the appointee. He stated he considered appointee to be an effective congressman who has shown leadership, and stated appointee's reputation is excellent.

BERT C. BRENNAN, 2306 North Morsow Street, Saginaw, Michigan, advised he has known the appointee for approximately twelve years, having had numerous contacts with him as a result of his former ownership of a pharmacy. He explained that the appointee has spoken on several occasions to the National Association of Retail Drugist Convention. He advised he has also been acquainted with appointee through Republican Party functions. Mr. BRENNAN stated he considers the appointee to have the highest character and reputation. He advised he considered appointee to be an outstanding congressman and "very close to the pulse of the people". He advised appointee is endowed with an ability to relate to people. He further stated he is not aware of any assets owned by the appointee. He advised he considers appointee's selection to be an outstanding choice which the majority of people can respect.

FREDERICK L. STACKABLE, 730 Michigan National Tower Building, Lansing, Michigan, advised that although he is an attorney, he has had no professional dealings with the appointee. He advised he has met appointee in the past at Republican Party functions and stated appointee makes a fine public appearance. Mr. STACKABLE stated he considers the appointee to be a very competent member of the United States Congress; has a fine background; and does not associate with members of questionable character. He further advised he is not aware of any mental or physical problems which preclude appointee from holding the position of Vice President.

LOREN D. ANDERSON, 2276 Rosewood, Pontiac, Michigan, advised he is in the insurance business as well as being a member of the legislature and has not had any professional dealings with the appointee. He advised he has, on several occasions, met the appointee at Republican Party functions and considers appointee to be of the highest character and reputation. He advised that he is "delighted about appointment" and feels the country needs a man like Mr. GERALD FORD.

DENNIS O. CAWTHORNE, 510 Browning, Manistee, Michigan, advised he has met the appointee only at Republican Party functions. He stated he has been told by many fellow congressmen of appointee's competency as a member of the United States Congress. He stated that he shared an office with the appointee's brother, THOMAS FORD, who is a former member of the Michigan House of Representatives. Mr. CAWTHORNE advised he has had many personal friends who are associated with the appointee's family, and each friend speaks highly of appointee.

JAMES E. DEFENBAUGH, 580 Lahser Road, Birmingham, Michigan, advised he has only met appointee at Republican Party functions. He advised he considers appointee's record in the United States House of Representatives as outstanding, noting appointee's peers have elected him minority leader, which reflects a high level of confidence among fellow legislators. He stated there is no question in his mind that the appointee is of the highest character, morals, and ethical background. He further advised he considers his abilities to be outstanding. Mr. DEFENBAUGH stated he is aware of no known associates of the appointee who are of a questionable background.

CLIFFORD H. SMART, Minority Leader, 555 West Walled Lake Drive, Walled Lake, Michigan, advised he has known the appointee for approximately fifteen years through numerous contacts at political conventions, meetings and social functions. He stated the appointee is of the highest character. He advised he is not personally aware of any assets of appointee. He advised the appointee has demonstrated leadership in the United States House of Representatives. Mr. SMART stated he is personally familiar with the appointee's brother, THOMAS FORD, and advised he would not question appointee's personal and political life in any manner.

JAMES S. FARNSWORTH [redacted] Plainwell, Michigan, advised that he has met appointee at several Republican Party functions and also was in attendance at a breakfast meeting in Washington, D. C., at which time appointee met with the Appropriation Committee, Michigan House of Representatives, to review the proposed Michigan Appropriations for 1972. He stated that as a result of this personal contact with the appointee he was left with a "very favorable impression" of the appointee. He stated appointee is of high moral character and is not known to associate with any individuals of a questionable background.

THOMAS G. SHARPE, [redacted] Howell, Michigan, advised that he has known appointee for approximately eight years through Republican Party contacts. He advised he is not personally familiar with any associates of appointee. He stated he considers the appointee to be a very capable legislator and the longevity of appointee's political career in the United States House of Representatives should be noted.

HAL WALTER ZIEGLER, [redacted] Jackson, Michigan, advised that although he is an attorney, he has had no professional contact with the appointee. He advised he is not personally familiar with the appointee's close associates. He stated he is a member of Michigan Appropriations Committee and did, on one occasion, have breakfast with the appointee in Washington, D. C., at which time the Appropriations Committee discussed the 1972 Michigan Appropriations. He advised he considers the appointee to be "highly competent" and advised that this is exemplified by the fact that his peers have voted him into a position of trust and responsibility within the United States House of Representatives. Mr. ZIEGLER advised the appointee enjoys the highest reputation within the State of Michigan.

MELVIN L. LARSEN, [redacted] Oxford, Michigan, advised that he has never had any personal contact with the appointee. He advised he did meet appointee at the Republican Convention in Detroit. He advised he does not associate with any individuals who are known to appointee but understands appointee's reputation is outstanding.

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DE 161-1355  
RBO/mpr:clc - 4

b6  
b7c

DAN D. ANGEL, [REDACTED] Marshall, Michigan, advised that he has met appointee on four or five occasions at Republican Party gatherings. He advised his last contact with the appointee was at a Republican Party fund raising in September, 1973, at Jackson, Michigan. Mr. ANGEL advised that on each of these contacts, he has been impressed with the appointee's sincerity and display of self-assurance. He stated his fellow members of the Michigan Legislature speak very highly of the appointee.

RAYMOND L. BAKER, [REDACTED], Farmington, Michigan, advised that he is a former owner of a pharmacy in Michigan, and as a result of this professional background, came into contact with appointee. He explained that he was at a pharmaceutical convention at which appointee once spoke. He stated he has had very little contact with appointee and advised he could not make a statement concerning appointee's abilities, associates, or reputation.

On October 17, 1973, SA [ ] conducted the following investigation at Lansing, Michigan:

The following individuals were contacted:

STATE OF MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS  
REPUBLICAN PARTY

Mr. DALE WARNER, 56th District, stated he is acquainted with appointee GERALD R. FORD and the two of them share five townships and two cities in their respective districts. Because of this, last year in a period of about two months, he and Mr. FORD campaigned together.

Based on this personal contact he believes Mr. FORD to be an excellent speaker, debater, and a person of excellent stability under conditions of stress. Mr. FORD is mature in his appearance, judgement, and conduct. No information is known suggesting that Mr. FORD represents any special interests and it is believed that he has been much ahead of his time in clearly and fully disclosing receipts and expenditures relating to his political activities. No information is known that would suggest that his conduct, morals, associates, loyalty, or competence is not on the highest plane. He is believed to be eminently qualified.

Mr. RICHARD D. BUTH, 92nd District, stated he has known Mr. GERALD FORD on a personal basis in excess of 15 years; however, the relationship is not on a family-social basis. Their contacts have been more frequent in the past several years.

He knows that in 1941 or 1942, Mr. FORD had acted as an assistant football coach at the University of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and that several of his, BUTH's, friends had played for Mr. FORD and at that time held him in high esteem.

Mr. FORD was in the military service. He is apparently in good physical condition and is a vital, aggressive individual. He had heard on the radio that it had been suggested that Mr. FORD had psychiatric treatment, but he, BUTH, cannot believe this and has never heard nor seen any reason to believe that such an allegation is based in fact.

DE 161-1355  
JRM/jms - 2

Mr. FORD's character, loyalty, morals, and associates are all of the highest quality and the designation of Mr. FORD is believed to be an exercise of very good judgement.

Mr. CLIFFORD COOK, Executive Secretary, Minority Office; Mr. CHARLES H. VARNUM, 108th District; Mr. DONALD VAN SINGLE, 99th District; Mr. RALPH OSTLING, 103rd District; Mr. JAMES F. SMITH, 83rd District; and Mr. MARK L. THOMPSON, 106th District.

These above individuals have met with Mr. GERALD FORD politically, have had limited contact, and considered his reputation for integrity, honesty, good moral conduct, and loyalty to the United States to be on the highest level.

Mr. KIRBY HOLMES, 26th District; Mr. WARREN O'BRIEN, 25th District; Mr. ROY L. SPENCER, 78th District; and Mr. ROBERT D. YOUNG, 86th District.

These four individuals have never met Mr. GERALD FORD. They have no knowledge of any pertinent information relating to the qualifications of Mr. GERALD FORD; however, believed, based on his excellent reputation and his high quality of performance, to be well qualified to serve as Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
JJB:js - 1

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

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b7c

EDGAR GEERLINGS, Republican Member of the Michigan State House of Representatives, advised he first met appointee, GERALD R. FORD, approximately 17 years ago, when he was seeking an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. GEERLINGS stated he has met FORD on several occasions during the last election campaign and characterized him as an honest, hardworking and highly motivated legislator. GEERLINGS advised that he feels appointee is highly qualified for the position of Vice President and if confirmed would do an excellent job. GEERLINGS stated that he knows of no information concerning FORD that could be considered derogatory in nature.

LOREN S. ARMBRUSTER, Republican Member of the Michigan State House of Representatives, advised that prior to his election to the Michigan Congress, he served in the position of a unregistered lobbyist for the Sugar Beet Industry in Michigan. In this capacity, he met appointee approximately twice a year for a period of 22 years. He characterized appointee as a conscientious, honest public servant. He stated that appointee is a qualified legislator and loyal citizen of both his state and his country. ARMBRUSTER stated in frequent contacts with members of the United States Congress, he has never heard a derogatory comment made concerning appointee. ARMBRUSTER stated that he feels appointee is a highly qualified individual who would make an excellent Vice President of the United States.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE  
REPUBLICAN PARTY

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 17,  
1973:

RAYMOND J. SMIT, 2050 Court, Ann Arbor, Michigan, advised he has had several contacts with appointee in the past as he is on the committee responsible for water pollution within the State of Michigan and has had several problems with Federal **legislation** in reference to the implementation with water pollution acts. He advised appointee has been of much assistance in aiding him to resolve problems which arise relative to these particular areas. He advised he has no reason to question appointee's background, integrity or competence.

RAYMOND C. MITTAN, 530 Sherman Court, Benton Harbor, Michigan, advised he has met appointee through many Party activities and is very well acquainted with appointee's brother, TOM. He advised he is not aware of any individuals whom appointee may associate with who are of other than outstanding character, morals, and integrity. He advised appointee, upon graduation from University of Michigan, went to Yale University where he was hired as football coach for an intraschool football team known as the Scrubbs. He advised appointee coached this team.

LOUIS K. CRAMTON, 3315 West Nelson Street, Midland, Michigan, advised he has known the appointee for approximately 13 years having met him through Republican Party functions. He advised appointee is extremely conscientious and totally incorruptible. He advised he considers appointee to be an outstanding choice. He advised that CHARLIE POTTER, former United States Senator from Michigan, is a close personal friend of appointee and has had a lot of influence on appointee's political career. He advised that appointee was a Freshman Congressman and member of a luncheon group known as Marching and Chowder Society, whose membership included RICHARD M. NIXON.

WILLIAM R. BRYAN, 331 Mt. Vernon, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, advised that he has never had any personal contact with appointee and can make no comment on the appointee's competence or pending appointment. He advised he had no comments to make about appointee.

HARRY G. GAST, JR., 5165 Lincoln Avenue, St. Joseph, Michigan, advised that he has had very little personal contact with appointee, but is pleased with appointee's selection and considers appointee to be an excellent legislator. He advised he had no further comment to make concerning appointee for the position of Vice President.

WILLIAM LEO JOWETT, 2430 Riverside Drive, Port Huron, Michigan, advised he has had only limited personal contact with appointee and advised all information he has gathered from talking with other members of Michigan Legislature reflect appointee is an outstanding choice for appointment. He advised he considers the fact that appointee has been scrutinized by the public for 25 years. He feels appointee must have a fine record.

WAYNE B. SACKETT, 515 Larkspur Street, Portage, Michigan, advised that he has had no personal contact with appointee although he has had limited contact with appointee's brother, TOM FORD. He advised he considers appointee very competent and to be an honest man. He advised the decisions appointee has made in the past are in his opinion fair. He advised he is happy the President appointed appointee and feels appointee will do an outstanding job.

JOHN P. SNEEKENS, 97 Edison Court, Coldwater, Michigan, advised he has known appointee for some 20 years, having numerous dealings with appointee in the early 1950's with relation to labor problems, which were arising in the State of Michigan during that period. He advised appointee pursues problems with great dispatch and is an exceptionally hard worker. He advised he is not aware of any individual who is other than of good character, who has associated with appointee.

DE 161-1355  
RBO/mpr/pjw -3

DE FOREST STRANG, 206 North Centerville Street, Sturgis, Michigan, advised appointee has been an associate of his through Party affairs for ten years. He advised he considers appointee to be very competent and is aware of no derogatory information concerning appointee. He advised he is pleased with appointee being chosen and feels "it is a proud day for the State of Michigan".

MELVIN J. DE STIGTER, 3487 Hillcrest, Hudsonville, Michigan, advised his contact with appointee has been a result of Republican Party meetings and on occasions, he has needed Federal Government assistance for his constituents and has received very good response from appointee's office. He advised he feels appointee has good understanding of Government function and is a "team man".

DE STIGTER further advised that appointee was at one time Director of Old Kent Bank, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and was asked to resign his appointment as a result of possible conflicts of interest.

BELA E. KENNEDY, Route 2, Box 133, Bangor, Michigan, advised that he has had very little contact with appointee. He advised that it is his understanding that appointee is highly motivated and a very respected member of Congress.

QUINCEY HOFFMAN, 2695 Clare Street, Applegate, Michigan, advised he has had little contact with appointee through Republican Party functions. He advised he has no derogatory information concerning appointee. He further advised everyone he is associated with speaks very highly of appointee.

STANLEY M. POWELL, Route 2, Ionia, Michigan, advised he has known appointee for many years, having owned a large farm in appointee's Federal district. He advised that in the past eleven years, since his coming to the Michigan Legislature, he has routed numerous problems through appointee's office, which related to Federal Government. He advised that appointee has been a tremendous service to the district, which they share in representation of Federal and Michigan Government, respectively. He

advised appointee and his staff are always prompt and helpful to solve any problem which arises. He advised it is his belief the district will "never get another Congressman like GERALD FORD". He advised appointee is physically strong, healthy, and an active person. He advised it is his opinion that appointee always goes the "second mile on any work". He advised that appointee has returned to his district during each Congressional leave period and traveled through the district in a house trailer meeting with his constituents and listening to their problems. He further advised that appointee at some time in his life changed his name. He advised that appointee's real father was named KING and his mother was remarried at least once. He advised that appointee resided in his mother's residence in Grand Rapids, Michigan, when he lived in Michigan. He advised appointee to date does not own a residence in Michigan, but utilizes his mother's residence as a place to stay when he is in Michigan. He advised that appointee had interests in the Ford Paint Company as a result of family ties in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He advised that it is his understanding that appointee disassociated himself from this family paint company when he entered public life. He advised **BOB KLEINER, Democrat, from Grand Rapids, is currently making** several statements that appointee is not qualified for the position of the Vice President, noting that appointee allegedly sponsored an individual of ill repute for a position of trust and responsibility with the Federal Government.

Representative GEORGE A. PRESCOTT, 434 West Lake Street, Tawas City, Michigan, advised he has had only casual acquaintance with appointee GERALD R. FORD. He advised he has no reason to doubt appointee's integrity, associates, or general background.

Representative JOHN M. ENGLER, Route 1, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, advised he has only had a few contacts with appointee GERALD R. FORD at Party functions and has no personal knowledge as to appointee's personal associates, his integrity or his abilities in the disposition of his job.

DE 161-1355  
RBO/mpr/pjw -5

Representative JOHN S. MOWAK, JR., Route 2, Adrian, Michigan, advised he has met appointee, GERALD FORD, at several Republican Party functions and would describe appointee as outstanding.

Representative WILLIAM HAYWARD BROWN, 1839 Sycamore, Royal Oak, Michigan, advised he has known appointee, GERALD FORD, for some seven or eight years and the only personal contacts he has with appointee are at Republican Party functions. He advised he has no reason to question appointee's character, associates, or integrity. He advised he has very little personal knowledge of appointee. He advised his associates in the Michigan Legislature speak quite highly of appointee.

DE 161-1355  
FLF/srd - 1

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 16, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7C

JOHN WELBORN, Republican Representative, 47th District, Kalamazoo, Michigan, advised he is a freshman Republican Representative from the 47th District and is not personally acquainted with appointee, GERALD R. FORD, but has never heard anything derogatory concerning him, either personally or politically.

PETER KOK, Republican Representative, 93rd District, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he is not personally acquainted with appointee, GERALD R. FORD, but has worked with him on a political basis for approximately five years. KOK stated the appointee has a reputation of possessing very high morals, sincerity and extremely high integrity. He advised his relationship with the appointee politically reinforces this description.

MICHAEL A. DIVELY, Republican Representative, 104th District, Traverse City, Michigan, advised he is well acquainted with the appointee, GERALD R. FORD, having known him approximately three years. He stated he was Chairman of the Michigan House of Representatives Campaign Committee, and in that capacity, became acquainted with Mr. FORD. DIVELY stated he does not know the appointee in a social capacity, but bases his contact with him politically. He advised the appointee seems to be a good family man and has very high morals and integrity. DIVELY stated he has never heard any rumor of anything derogatory concerning the appointee with the exception of the recent \$10,000.00 campaign funds, which DIVELY stated he knew nothing about. He further advised he has never heard anything concerning the appointee needing or seeking psychiatric consultation.

DE 161-1355  
EWK/lim - 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducting by  
SA [redacted] on October 19, 1973, at Rockford,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7c

MARTIN D. BUTH, Republican Representative, House of Representatives for the State of Michigan, 154 South Fremont, Rockford, advised he has known Mr. GERALD R. FORD for approximately 25 years. BUTH stated he first heard about Mr. FORD because of his reputation as a high school football player and then later became acquainted with Mr. FORD through Republican Party politics in the vicinity of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

BUTH indicated he met Mr. FORD personally in 1948 when Mr. FORD was running for the United States Congress. BUTH stated he has, in the past, assisted Mr. FORD in his political life by setting up meetings, particularly with farm constituents.

BUTH advised since 1948 he has seen Mr. FORD frequently at Republican Party and agricultural functions. In addition, BUTH stated that Mr. FORD and he were members of the same church in Grand Rapids.

BUTH stated he is not an attorney so he cannot comment on Mr. FORD's ability as an attorney.

BUTH stated emphatically that he has never heard any adverse information regarding the morals or character of Mr. FORD. BUTH advised he believes Mr. FORD is eminently qualified to be Vice President of the United States because of his great ability and many years of experience in the United States Congress.

In conclusion, BUTH stated "Mr. FORD is a wide-awake individual who always has the interest of his constituents at heart and there could not be a better choice for Vice President."

DE 161-1355  
JJB:js - 1

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [ ] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7c

The following Democratic members of the  
Michigan State House of Representatives advised that they  
have had no contact with appointee, GERALD R. FORD, and  
know of no information about him that could be considered  
derogatory in nature:

Representatives MATTHEW MC NEELY  
JOHN R. OTTERBACHER  
JAMES BRADLEY  
ALFRED A. SHERIDAN  
DALE A. KILDEE  
GARY OWEN  
THADDEUS C. STOPCZNSKI  
JOHN F. MARKES  
BOBBY D. CRIM  
JOHN BENNETT  
MRS. DAISEY ELLIOTT  
WILLIAM BRODHEAD  
JOSEPH FORBES



DE 161-1355  
JRM:js - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7C

The following Democratic members of the  
Michigan State House of Representatives advised that they  
have had no contact with appointee, GERALD R. FORD, and  
know of no information about him that could be considered  
derogatory in nature:

Representatives PAUL A. ROSENBAUM  
HOWARD E. WOLPE  
DAVID HOLMES  
PERRY BULLARD

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

GEORGE MONTGOMERY, 17 years  
Majority Whip  
15792 Meyers Road  
Detroit, Michigan

He advised that he is only slightly familiar with appointee having met him when appointee was visiting his brother, TOM FORD, at Michigan House of Representatives. He advised he has no reason to question appointee's character, associates, or qualifications. He advised that he had no derogatory statement to make concerning appointee, but felt GEORGE SIETSMA, a former member of Michigan House of Representatives of Wyoming, Michigan, may possibly have information concerning appointee, which is relative to this investigation. He advised appointee had a dispute with SIETSMA concerning pollution of a river by waste being given off by appointee's paint company.

WILLIAM A. RYAN, 32 years  
Speaker of the House  
1582 Defer Road  
Detroit, Michigan

He advised the only personal contact he has had with the appointee was a trip he and several other legislators made to Washington, D. C., to meet with appointee relative to "income tax legislation concerning legislators' second home deductions". He advised that the former director of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) was present at this meeting and no decision has been made to this date concerning the current opinion of IRS that legislators may not deduct the cost of a second residence.

DE 161-1355  
RBO/mpr - 2

He advised he considers appointee's legislative abilities are good, noting appointee appears to weigh the pro and cons of each issue. He advised appointee has a fine reputation. He advised he would characterize appointee as "not the most intellectual person".

DE 161-1355  
PDU/dlc - 1

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at  
Lansing, Michigan:

b6  
b7C

The following Democratic members of the  
Michigan House of Representatives advised they are not  
acquainted with appointee, GERALD R. FORD, and they knew  
nothing of a derogatory nature regarding the appointee:

Representatives	THOMAS GUASTELLO
	WARREN GOEMAERE
	GERRIT HASPER

DE 161-1355  
JJB:js - 1

House of Representatives  
State of Michigan

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 16, 1973, at Lansing, Michigan:

RUSSELL HELLMAN, Democratic Whip, Michigan  
State House of Representatives, provided the following  
information:

HELLMAN advised that he has known GERALD FORD  
both socially and professionally for approximately 10 years.  
HELLMAN characterized FORD as an astute politician of  
unquestionable honesty. HELLMAN stated that he has had  
limited contact with FORD's family and knows of no information  
about FORD or his family that could be considered derogatory  
in nature. HELLMAN further advised that he considers FORD  
well-qualified for the position of Vice President of the  
United States.

MICHAEL NOVAK, Democratic Member, Michigan  
State House of Representatives, advised that he knows nothing  
concerning Congressman GERALD FORD and has no personal  
knowledge of any unfavorable information concerning FORD.

RAYMOND HOOD, Democratic Member, Michigan State  
House of Representatives, advised that he knows nothing  
concerning Congressman GERALD FORD and has no personal  
knowledge of any unfavorable information concerning FORD.

THOMAS BROWN, Democratic Member, House of  
Representatives, advised that he knows nothing concerning  
Congressman GERALD FORD and has no personal knowledge of  
any unfavorable information concerning FORD.

CASMER P. OGONOWSKI, Democratic Member, Michigan  
State House of Representatives, advised that he knows nothing  
concerning Congressman GERALD FORD and has no personal  
knowledge of any unfavorable information concerning FORD.

DE 161-1355

JJB:js - 2

gag

JOSEPHINE HUNSINGER, Democratic Whip, Michigan State House of Representatives, advised that she has had limited contact with GERALD FORD on a professional basis. She characterized FORD as a very stable, knowledgeable and honest individual. HUNSINGER stated that from her limited contact with FORD, she feels that he is eminently qualified for the position of Vice President of the United States.

WILLIAM R. COPELAND, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, State House of Representatives, advised that he has had limited contact with GERALD FORD on a professional basis. COPELAND stated that in all dealings with FORD, he has been highly impressed with FORD's ability, honesty and efficiency. COPELAND stated FORD is unquestionably a loyal American citizen and feels he is highly qualified for the position of Vice President of the United States.

JELT SIETSMA, Democratic Member, House of Representatives, advised he knows FORD both on a personal and professional basis. He stated that he has had limited contact over the past three years with GERALD FORD and characterizes him as an honest, hardworking Statesman. SIETSMA stated that he knows of no information concerning FORD or his family that could be considered derogatory. SIETSMA stated that he would recommend FORD for the position of Vice President of the United States with enthusiasm.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

DE 161-1355  
JFC/bjk/dll - 1

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

b6  
b7c

Mr. JOHN J. BALARDO, Assistant United States Attorney, Western District of Michigan, Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has been acquainted with Mr. FORD since 1950. He pointed out that Mr. FORD owns a residence two houses from where he, Mr. BALARDO, used to live on Sherman Street, Southeast, Grand Rapids.

Mr. BALARDO stated that he has been acquainted with Mr. FORD only as his Congressman and has not known him on a personal, close relationship at any time. Mr. BALARDO's association with Mr. FORD since 1969 has only been to meet with Mr. FORD at Republican Party functions. He said that based on Mr. FORD's reputation for competency and fairness in dealing with his constituents, that he, Mr. BALARDO, could highly recommend Mr. FORD for the responsible position of Vice President of the United States. Mr. BALARDO added that he does not know of any adverse information concerning Mr. FORD's personal life and professional dealings.



DE 161-1355  
JFC/bjk/KAB - 1

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

b6  
b7C

Mr. FRANK S. SPIES, Assistant United States Attorney, Western District of Michigan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was contacted at his office in the Federal Building, Grand Rapids.

Mr. SPIES stated he became acquainted with Mr. FORD soon after he, SPIES, arrived in Grand Rapids, in 1964, to practice law. He said he met Mr. FORD through a gathering of members of the Republican Party and, thereafter, met him infrequently at party affairs.

Mr. SPIES said he does not have a close personal association with Mr. FORD, however, he has never heard or known of any suggestion of anything criminal, unethical, or improper concerning Mr. FORD's character or behavior.

Mr. SPIES stated that Mr. FORD possesses the highest qualities for the position of Vice-President of the United States and has never known of any kind of impropriety on the part of Mr. FORD.

CITY OFFICIALS

DE 161-1355  
WE/pap - 1

#### CIVIC LEADERS

The following investigation was conducted on October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED], at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

b6  
b7c

Reverend LYMAN PARKS, Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids, and pastor of the First Community African Methodist Episcopal Church, 500 James, Southeast, Grand Rapids, advised he has been pastor of his church and a resident of Grand Rapids for seven years.

Reverend PARKS stated that he has known appointee personally during this time, and particularly has had frequent contact with him through his concurrent duties as mayor of Grand Rapids. He described the appointee as being very honest and very worthy of the highest trust. Appointee is very personable and has always wanted to help as many individuals as possible. He considers appointee to be an exceptionally hard worker; one who is able to accomplish difficult tasks with a minimum of effort. In the event appointee disagreed with a particular philosophy, he is not the least hesitant to speak out. Reverend PARKS stated that he has known appointee to be exceptionally capable in working out compromises for the good of the country; this he cited as being a particularly needed asset at this time in American history.

Concerning the appointee's views and attitudes toward civil rights and minority groups, Reverend PARKS stated that appointee is racially unbiased and that he works for the best interest of all individuals. He stated that appointee continues to be a leader in the area of civil rights, adding that it was his opinion that the vast majority of Grand Rapids' approximately 13,000 black residents support appointee for the position of Vice President. Reverend PARKS added that appointee associates with individuals of the highest character and reputation and that he considers appointee to be a very loyal citizen who is very proud of his country. Reverend PARKS feels that President RICHARD M. NIXON has made a good choice in appointing appointee as Vice President and that he highly recommends appointee for that position.

DE 161-1355  
JEM/pap/pjw -1

CITY COMMISSIONER, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA

b6  
b7C

On October 17, 1973, RICHARD SCHWAIGER, First Ward City Commissioner, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has known and had repeated contact with Mr. FORD since May of 1970 when he took office as City Commissioner. SCHWAIGER stated that he has worked with Mr. FORD on matters relating to city improvement projects and the effects of wage - price freeze on city officials' salaries.

SCHWAIGER stated that he has never been aware of any derogatory information relating to Mr. FORD's character, morals or loyalty. According to SCHWAIGER, Mr. FORD's civil rights policy is appropriate. SCHWAIGER is unaware of any undesirable associates nor has he ever heard of any unethical financial practices by Mr. FORD.

In general, SCHWAIGER concluded by saying he "couldn't say the least little thing bad about Mr. GERALD FORD" and he recommended him for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
MAT/kab/pjw:lcc - 1

CITY TREASURER

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7c

Mr. JOHN R. FRENS, City Treasurer, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has been aware of the appointee for the past ten to twelve years.

Mr. FRENS stated that he is not socially acquainted with Mr. FORD but his numerous contacts with Mr. FORD concerning financing of City Government and Federal grants to City Governments have made him very aware of Mr. FORD's capabilities and character. Mr. FRENS stated that Mr. FORD is a very reputable individual and that all his dealings with Mr. FORD's associates and aides indicated that they were also of the highest character. He added that he was aware of no financial misdealings regarding any Federal or local funds, which were distributed by the Government, and he added that Mr. FORD's integrity on this point was very obvious. He stated that whenever there were any questions or problems, which he had as a City Treasurer regarding the Federal Government, his inquiries into Mr. FORD's office were promptly and sufficiently answered. He advised that all his experiences indicate that Mr. FORD was concerned only with doing the best possible job he could regardless of political party. He stated that Mr. FORD was aware of everyone's civil rights and respected the dignity of all individuals, regardless of the fact that those individuals' opinions might not be the same as Mr. FORD's opinions.

In closing, Mr. FRENS stated that he would recommend Mr. FORD without reservation to the appointment which he has received stating that he based his recommendation on Mr. FORD's character and abilities as well as his loyalty to the country.

MAT/kab/psn - 1  
DE 161-1355

CITY ATTORNEY

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7c

GEORGE WEIBLE, City Attorney, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has been acquainted through business associations with GERALD R. FORD and since he first met the appointee he has experienced total and professional cooperation in his dealings with the appointee. He stated he is aware of no derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD's character, reputation, or associates, adding one would have to go a long way to find anything wrong with Mr. GERALD FORD. He advised Mr. FORD is very qualified for this appointment or for any other political position.

WEIBLE stated although the appointee is a Republican and he, WEIBLE, is a Democrat, he is not aware of any Democrats having derogatory information regarding the appointee, even though their particular political views may differ.

He advised Mr. GERALD FORD is very concerned with the dignity of all people regardless of race, creed, or color, and he stated that he has never doubted the appointee's loyalty to the United States.

WEIBLE concluded Mr. FORD is a very organized and hardworking individual whom he would recommend for the office of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
AW/emp - 1

b6  
b7C

GRAND RAPIDS CITY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 17, 1973:

Judge LOUIS E. SIMHAUSER, 61st District Court, State of Michigan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he first became acquainted with GERALD R. FORD during the early 1950's when Judge SIMHAUSER was Assistant Prosecutor in Grand Rapids.

Judge SIMHAUSER advised he became very active with the Grand Valley Council of Boy Scouts in 1952. It was during this time he was in frequent contact with the appointee, who was an Eagle Scout.

Judge SIMHAUSER advised that the appointee in his opinion is a very honest, trustworthy person who has the gift of getting things done. He believes that the appointee accomplishes this without fanfare. He also states that the appointee is more interested in accomplishments than publicity.

Judge SIMHAUSER advised that he has had very little political contact with Mr. FORD but he is aware that Mr. FORD's office has always been of assistance to him when needed.

He advised that he believes that the appointee has been fair to all people. He is certain this is true locally in regard to the appointee's involvement with the poor people.

Judge SIMHAUSER advised that he believes the appointee is a very good choice for Vice President.

JHC:fln/lk - 1  
DE 161-1355

GRAND RAPIDS CITY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

b6  
b7C

JOHN H. BREWER, Chairman and Seventh District Commissioner, Board of Commissioners, Kent County, Michigan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has known Mr. GERALD R. FORD since 1956. He stated that he has associated with Mr. FORD both socially and professionally and described him as a perfect gentleman who is always well controlled. BREWER stated that he strongly admires Mr. FORD and that he feels he is the finest political representative he has known. In his dealings with Mr. FORD, he stated that Mr. FORD and his representatives have been very cooperative.

BREWER indicated that he felt that Mr. FORD has a pleasant personality. He further stated that he feels that Mr. FORD is more than qualified for the position for which he is aspiring and qualified to the point that he could handle the position of President. He indicated that Mr. FORD is conservative personally but reactive enough to meet the contemporary demands imposed on him. BREWER stated that he himself is from a similar Republican background in the Grand Rapids area and concluded by stating that Mr. FORD's integrity, loyalty, character and associates are above reproach. He is not aware of any derogatory information in Mr. FORD's background whatsoever.



DE 161-1355  
JHC/cjn - 1

GRAND RAPIDS CITY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

b6  
b7c

JACK BRONKEMA, Clerk of Court, Kent County, was recontacted to determine if he had any personal knowledge regarding mental, physical or social problems within GERALD R. FORD's immediate family. Mr. BRONKEMA stated he had no personal knowledge of any medical problems of GERALD FORD or his immediate family. He stated he was not aware of any alcoholic problems within that family nor had he heard of any former marriage by GERALD FORD. He stated that Mrs. GERALD FORD had been previously married.

DE 161-1355  
TSK/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7C

GERALD W. GRAVES, Mayor, City of Lansing, City Hall, advised that he has met appointee GERALD R. FORD at several official functions and is aware of his public record. He stated that he has never heard of any derogatory information concerning appointee's character, loyalty, or associates and would recommend him for the position of Vice-President.

DE 161-1355  
RWM/kpd -1

CITY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 17, 1973:

b6  
b7C

Mr. PETER M. LAMBERTS, Mayor of Kentwood, Michigan, furnished the following information about GERALD R. FORD and his nomination to be Vice President of the United States.

Mayor LAMBERTS has known Mr. FORD for at least 12 years, both socially and as a political associate. Mr. FORD's character, reputation, loyalty, and morals are impeccable. His associates are of the highest type. Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney are excellent. Mr. LAMBERTS said nothing unfavorable has ever come to his attention concerning Mr. FORD. Mr. FORD's integrity is unmatched, and he has been a success at everything he has attempted. Mr. LAMBERTS said he would not hesitate to recommend Mr. FORD, and felt that Mr. FORD would do an excellent job.

Mr. LAMBERTS is the elected Mayor of Kentwood, holding office as an independent. His residence is 5142 Hey Boer, and his office is 1661 44th, SE, Kentwood, telephone number 455-4000.

DE 161-1355  
LJM/jbm/lim - 1

CITY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973, at  
Belding, Michigan:

b6  
b7C

DONNA DOREY, City Treasurer, Belding, was interviewed at the Belding City Hall. She did not know Mr. FORD personally and only spoke with him on a casual basis when he visited Belding during the past eight years.

DOREY has never heard any unfavorable remarks regarding Mr. FORD's character, morals, associates, or loyalty. Through her own association with Mr. FORD, she could only relate that he was a hard worker for the people. He has never had any financial transactions with the City of Belding although he made recommendations to the City Council on city problems. She described Mr. FORD as fair to all his constituents.

DE 161-1355  
OJZ/pjf - 1

CITY PROSECUTOR

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] at Ionia, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

b6  
b7C

WALTER MARKS, City Prosecutor, Ionia, Michigan, advised that he met Mr. GERALD FORD eleven years ago when he (MARKS) was campaigning for City Prosecutor in Ionia. Mr. MARKS stated that this meeting was at approximately the same time in 1962 that redistricting took place, and Ionia County was then represented by Mr. FORD.

Mr. MARKS stated that he has met Mr. FORD personally on several occasions and considers him to be a person of high principles, **honesty** and living within his means.

Mr. MARKS advised that he has known many politicians who are two-faced individuals but stated that definitely Mr. FORD is not one of these people. Mr. FORD is a politician who is genuinely in the thoughts and needs of the people he represents.

Mr. MARKS characterized Mr. FORD as being a straight shooter of extraordinary ability. He said, therefore, he would highly recommend him as Vice-President of the United States and could offer absolutely no derogatory information concerning him.

DE 161-1355  
TWR/lcc - 1

CITY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] in Portland, Michigan, on October  
18, 1973:

b6  
b7c

Mr. JOSEPH V. TITCHVON, 118 Church Street, Portland, Michigan, was interviewed and stated he is a member of the City Council of Portland, and he has held that position for one and a half years. He stated he knows Mr. FORD by sight only and has never talked to him personally. He advised that he has attended meetings at which Mr. FORD has spoken.

Mr. TITCHVON advised that he feels Mr. FORD possesses the necessary qualifications for Vice President of the United States and believes he is loyal to his country and to the Republican Party. He stated he feels Mr. FORD possesses an unblemished character. Mr. TITCHVON added that he has no personal or hearsay knowledge of any derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD. He advised that to his knowledge the City of Portland made no political contributions to Mr. FORD's reelection campaign.

Mr. TITCHVON stated that he is aware of Mr. FORD's concern for senior citizens in his district and that the appointee has the respect of both Democrats and Republicans alike. He stated Mr. FORD sometimes defends the Republican Party even though he may not fully agree with the Party's position on a given matter. He stated he would be delighted to see Mr. FORD become Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
CAP/pap - 1

b6  
b7C

WYOMING, MICHIGAN, MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted on October 17, 1973, by SA [ ] at Wyoming, Michigan:

CHARLES V. PROBERT, Wyoming Municipal Court Judge and former Kent County Prosecutor, was interviewed and he advised that he has known appointee since 1967. While PROBERT was a Prosecutor, he received several inquiries from GORDON E. VANDERTILL, staff member for appointee. At no time did VANDERTILL use the power of the appointee's office to influence PROBERT's cases. On one occasion, in 1968, appointee personally called PROBERT and wanted to know some facts in a case being handled by PROBERT. FORD did not imply anything which could have been construed as an attempt to influence PROBERT on his case.

After PROBERT was elected Judge in Wyoming, Michigan, he received several calls from appointee. At no time did appointee attempt to influence PROBERT on cases pending before him.

PROBERT further stated that appointee's morals are beyond reproach, as is his character. Appointee's loyalty to his country is beyond question.

PROBERT further stated that appointee has never used any questionable tactics during his campaigns for election to the House of Representatives.

DE 161-1355  
TWR/kpd -1

CITY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at East Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

b6  
b7C

Mr. FREDRIC H. THOLEN, JR., 2825 Oakwood, East Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number 949-1973, who is employed as the City Manager of East Grand Rapids, provided the following information:

Mr. THOLEN stated that he has known appointee for approximately 15 years and has spoken with him personally on numerous occasions. He also advised he has been with appointee at social functions although he does not consider him to be a personal friend.

Mr. THOLEN described appointee as an individual of unblemished character who is a warm, friendly, helpful individual. He stated appointee has rendered assistance to his city on many occasions and was especially helpful in rendering aid when his city was struck by a tornado in 1969.

He stated he knew of no moral or character weakness which would affect his confirmation and stated he would highly recommend appointee for the position of Vice President.

Mr. THOLEN stated he was not familiar with appointee's financial background other than that of appointee owning stock in the family paint factory.



DE 161-1355  
LJM/emp - 1

CITY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Lowell, Michigan:

b6  
b7C

BLAINE E. BACON, City Manager and City Clerk, Lowell, was interviewed at his office in City Hall.

BACON advised he is a business acquaintance of GERALD FORD, having met him in 1969. BACON's association with Mr. FORD was as an intermediary for the Town of Lowell.

BACON described Mr. FORD's character as perfect and stated he is of high moral fiber and associated with very reputable people. There was no question in his mind relative to Mr. FORD's loyalty to the United States. During BACON's discussions with GERALD FORD, Mr. FORD had never made a prejudicial statement regarding any minority group.

BACON stated he was a confirmed Democrat until he met GERALD FORD and now is a Republican due to the outstanding job Mr. FORD has done as a Representative. He recommended Mr. FORD highly as a public official and knew of no derogatory events or information in Mr. FORD's past.

COUNTY OFFICIALS

DE 161-1355  
RAE:nar - 1

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [ ] on October 19, 1973:

JOHN R. BUTH, 1111 Buth Drive, Northeast, Comstock Park, Michigan, telephone number 361-8008, advised that he currently serves on the Kent County Board of Commissioners. He was elected to that position on the Republican Party ticket in 1968. He stated that he has become personally acquainted with Congressman GERALD R. FORD during his tenure in office, but he does not feel that he knows Mr. FORD well. He advised that his relationship with Mr. FORD has been strictly political and that he has had no social or business contact with the Congressman. All personal contact between BUTH and Mr. FORD **has** been at times when they have jointly met with their mutual constituents.

BUTH stated that from his observations and contacts with Mr. FORD, he feels that the appointee is a man of excellent integrity and character and high moral standards. The appointee enjoys an outstanding reputation not only among BUTH's constituents, but throughout the **country**. BUTH has no personal or second-hand knowledge of anything of a derogatory nature regarding FORD, his family or associates. BUTH is not personally acquainted with the members of Mr. FORD's family.

BUTH stated that he has no knowledge whatsoever of misuse or improprieties in campaign funding and he feels that, in his position, he would have this knowledge if there were any. BUTH has no reservation whatsoever about giving FORD his highest recommendation for the position for which he has been designated.

DE 161-1355  
JCE/lcc - 1

POLITICAL ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED], on October 18, 1973:

b6  
b7c

EDWIN J. HEEREN, 1921 Orchard Lane, N.E. Grand Rapids, Michigan, residence telephone number [REDACTED] was contacted. He advised that he is a member of the Kent County Board of Commissioners and has served in that post from 1968 to 1970, and currently since January, 1973. He stated his full time employment is that of owner-manager of the Fruit Town Produce and Garden Center, 876 Fuller, Grand Rapids. Mr. HEEREN stated he is a member of the Republican party and was elected to his Commissioner's post under the Republican party.

Mr. HEEREN advised that he has known GERALD FORD for approximately 10 years and has had personal contact with him during that period. He described the nature of that contact as being personal as opposed to Kent County type business. In regard to that, he advised he could recall having no contact with Representative FORD directly concerning Kent County business.

He characterized Representative FORD as being one of the most capable and experienced individuals he has ever met. He believes him to be an outstanding candidate for the position of Vice President and without hesitation would support him for that position.

In this regard, Mr. HEEREN stated he has heard nothing of a derogatory nature concerning Representative FORD and/or members of his family. He stated he has had no personal contact with Representative FORD such as attending social functions with him. He said there was absolutely no question in his mind regarding Representative FORD's integrity and his character and morals are unimpeachable. He stated his loyalty is beyond reproach as demonstrated by his long and effective service in the Congress of the United States.

Regarding Representative FORD's civil rights position, he advised that the Community Action Program (CAP) is a Federally funded program in the Grand Rapids area. This is part of the Kent County Community Action Program which is designed to upgrade minority groups in the area.

DE 161-1355  
JCE/lcc/pjw -2

He related that from what he has heard, Representative FORD is highly thought of by members of these two groups in particular, and other civil rights groups in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area in general.

Mr. HEEREN recalled that in approximately 1965 or 1966, just as he had been chosen as Minority Leader in the Congress, DREW PEARSON, noted national columnist, presented an article concerning Representative FORD. He recalled that the article charged that Mr. FORD had received campaign funds from sources outside of his Fifth Congressional District. Mr. HEEREN stated that presumably these funds originated from private individuals, although he could recall no specifics. He advised that, as far as he knows, politically this type of activity occurs frequently and saw nothing wrong with it. He was unable to recall with any particular regularity anything else regarding that article.

Mr. HEEREN reiterated that he would support Representative FORD for the position of Vice President and gave his unqualified backing to him in this regard.

DE 161-1355  
BAM/lk:cb - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October  
18, 1973:

b6  
b7C

ARNOLD A. WITTENBACH, Kent County Commissioner, Ada Shoppers Square, Ada, Michigan, stated that he first met GERALD FORD in 1962 and has had numerous contacts with him since that time. WITTENBACH advised that most of his contacts are of a business nature and he had established a very good working relationship with Mr. FORD during the period 1964 through 1968, at which time he served as the mayor of Lowell, Michigan. WITTENBACH advised that during his terms as mayor and in his current assignment as Kent County Commissioner, he has contacted Mr. FORD on numerous occasions in an effort to secure the proper agencies which he could contact in an effort to obtain Federal financial assistance for various projects in the Grand Rapids area. WITTENBACH stated that at no time did Mr. FORD exercise his power or influence in securing Federal financial assistance for any programs WITTENBACH had instituted.

WITTENBACH further advised that approximately two weeks ago he contacted Mr. FORD at the Capitol Building and they dined together along with two other Michigan couples. WITTENBACH described Mr. FORD as a devoted Republican servant who possesses all of the qualities, such as impeccable character, integrity, and devotion to his constituents, which combined, make him worthy of serving as Vice President.

WITTENBACH stated that he has no knowledge of Mr. FORD's campaigns or the methods of procuring campaign funds and he is not in a position to know Mr. FORD's position relating to civil rights.

WITTENBACH further stated that he would highly recommend Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
JPW/emv:cb - 1

REFEREE, JUVENILE COURT, KENT COUNTY

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

PHILIP R. VERSLUIS, Referee, Juvenile Court,  
Kent County, 1501 Cedar NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, res-  
idence 75 Collingdale, Walker, Michigan, telephone number  
453-1393, advised as follows concerning the nomination of  
GERALD R. FORD as Vice President of the United States:

He has known Mr. FORD for about 15 years,  
through an association Mr. FORD had with his father, now  
deceased. He sat on various boards and committees with Mr.  
FORD during that time.

VERSLUIS continued noting that Mr. FORD enjoys  
an excellent reputation among the people in the Grand  
Rapids Community and he shares their feelings. He knows Mr.  
FORD to be a loyal, dedicated, responsive individual. He  
pointed out that when a **constituent** calls or writes Mr.  
FORD's office on a legislative or personal matter, the  
reply is always prompt and responsive to the matter at  
hand.

VERSLUIS concluded by stating that he considers  
Mr. FORD well qualified, he knows of no derogatory infor-  
mation concerning Mr. FORD, his family, or associates and  
he highly recommends him for Vice President of the United  
States.

DE 161-1355  
PTL/pjw -1

COUNTY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA :

b6  
b7C

On October 18, 1973, C. HUGH DOHANY, Treasurer for Oakland County, was contacted regarding GERALD R. FORD. DOHANY stated he had met Mr. FORD, but did not know him well enough to make any comments.



REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS

DE 161-1355

GGR/emp - 1

MICHIGAN STATE REPUBLICAN CHAIRMAN

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

b6  
b7C

WILLIAM F. MC LAUGHLIN, 404 East Michigan Avenue, advised he has been the State Republican Chairman for the past five years and for four years prior to that he was Vice Chairman. MC LAUGHLIN stated he has known appointee, GERALD R. FORD, for the past 11 years in the field of politics. MC LAUGHLIN advised he is a member of the Republican National Committee and that this committee submitted the appointee's name to the President of the United States for consideration for the position of Vice President of the United States. MC LAUGHLIN stated he knows nothing derogatory regarding appointee in any way and considers appointee to be of excellent character and reputation and a very loyal American. Mr. MC LAUGHLIN advised he is not aware of any information which would prevent the appointee's confirmation as Vice President of the United States. He concluded by stating that to his knowledge Mr. FORD enjoys excellent health and would make an excellent Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
LJM/lim/KAB - 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 19, 1973, at Grand  
Haven, Michigan:

b6  
b7C

JULIAN B. HATTON, 1821 Doris, Grand Haven, was interviewed at his residence. HATTON has known Mr. GERALD R. FORD for approximately 22 years as a Republican Party associate. HATTON is the Executive Vice-President of the Stiles-Hatton Construction Company in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

HATTON advised he is slightly acquainted with Mr. FORD and has not associated with Mr. FORD to any extent on a social basis. HATTON was the former finance chairman of the Republican Party in Ottawa County. Through this position, he became associated to a greater degree with Mr. FORD.

HATTON advised he had never heard of anything derogatory concerning Mr. FORD's reputation, character, or morals.

HATTON stated that Mr. FORD, at no time, made any financial transactions with the Stiles-Hatton Company although the Stiles-Hatton Company has utilized the Ford Paint and Varnish Company prior to Mr. FORD's interest in politics and continues to do so.

HATTON stated that Mr. FORD was a very hard working Republican and would competently handle the position of the Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355

GGM/mpr - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

b6  
b7C

FORMER MICHIGAN STATE REPUBLICAN CHAIRMEN

LAWRENCE LINDEMER, Attorney, Foster, Lindemer, Swift, and Collins Law Firm, 900 American Bank and Trust Building, advised he was Michigan State Republican Chairman from 1957 to 1961, and has known Mr. GERALD FORD for the past 20 years. Mr. LINDEMER stated Mr. FORD is an individual of excellent character and reputation and is a very loyal American. Mr. LINDEMER stated he has never known Mr. FORD to be involved in any activities not meeting the highest standards of morality and ethics. Mr. LINDEMER advised he has never heard any rumors of any kind regarding wrongdoing on the part of Mr. FORD. LINDEMER stated he knows nothing derogatory regarding Mr. FORD in any way. LINDEMER stated he has the highest regard and respect for Mr. FORD and highly recommends Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President of the United States. LINDEMER advised he knows nothing regarding any psychiatric consultation or treatment received by Mr. FORD in the past. LINDEMER stated he does not know the family of Mr. FORD; however, he has never heard any derogatory information concerning the FORD family.

Mr. GEORGE VAN PEURSEM, President, Michigan Manufacturers Association, 600 Stoddard Building, Lansing, Michigan, advised he was Michigan State Republican Chairman from February, 1961 to February 1963 and from 1951 to 1959, was a Michigan State representative in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area. VAN PEURSEM stated he has known Mr. GERALD FORD for the past 22 years. VAN PEURSEM stated on occasions from 1951 to 1959, he campaigned with Mr. FORD and considers Mr. FORD to be a great public servant who is a sound, responsible, and excellent citizen of the United States. VAN PEURSEM advised, to the best of his knowledge, Mr. FORD's personal life and habits are above reproach and nothing derogatory regarding Mr. FORD or Mr. FORD's family is known by Mr. VAN PEURSEM. VAN PEURSEM stated he knows of no particular connections Mr. FORD has in the Lansing area with business or labor leaders. VAN PEURSEM stated

DE 161-1355

GGR/mpr - 2

that based upon his knowledge of Mr. FORD, he would highly recommend him for the position of Vice President of the United States as he knows of no one who is better qualified. VAN PEURSEM stated he knows nothing of Mr. FORD having received psychiatric consultation or treatment in the past.

Best Available Copy

LA 101-1355  
Exhibit A - 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

b6  
b7c

ROBERT J. REVELED, Kent County Chairman, Republican Party, advised that he has known THOMAS M. FORD for approximately ten years. He advised that he has known appointee through his association with the Republican Party in Kent County, Michigan. He said that over the last two years, he has been County Chairman and that during this time he has been in frequent contact with appointee.

REVELED said that he has the highest regard for appointee as a man and a politician. He said appointee is a man of the highest moral character and is completely dedicated to help solve the problems of the United States. He advised that he has never heard any information of an unfavorable nature concerning appointee or any members of his family. He advised that he had no reservations about appointee's nomination to become Vice President of the United States.

He further stated that he is a friend of THOMAS and RICHARD FORD (appointee's brothers) and both of them enjoy an outstanding reputation in the Grand Rapids area. He advised that he could think of nothing he has ever heard about the FORD family which could prove embarrassing at a later date.

REVELED advised that as a politician and as a man, appointee is completely qualified to serve in the Office of Vice President. He advised that appointee's 25 years in Congress makes him highly qualified for the position to which he has been nominated.

DE 161-1355  
JRM:js - 1

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at  
Lansing, Michigan:

b6  
b7C

LEO FARHAT was contacted at his place of  
employment, Suite 2-A, Thomas More Building, 417 Seymour,  
and furnished the following information:

FARHAT stated that he is a practicing attorney  
and has been the 6th District Chairman of the Republican  
Party in Michigan for seven years. FARHAT has known  
appointee, GERALD R. FORD, through his political associations  
for approximately 10 years. Although he has no personal  
knowledge of appointee's character and integrity, he has  
never heard any derogatory information concerning him.  
FARHAT is also acquainted with appointee's brother, THOMAS  
FORD, who is a State Legislator in Lansing, and to FARHAT's  
knowledge, has the highest reputation concerning his  
personal and political activities.

FARHAT stated that from his knowledge of appointee,  
he is well-qualified for the position of Vice President  
of the United States.

DE 161-1355

PDU:js - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7C

JERRY ROE, Ex-Director, Republican State Central Committee, 404 East Michigan, advised he has known the appointee, GERALD R. FORD, for approximately 10 years. He said that he was not personally acquainted with the appointee, but has associated with him as a result of his membership in the State Republican Committee.

ROE said in his opinion the appointee is a fine individual of good moral character and high integrity. He said he knows nothing of a derogatory nature regarding the appointee and considers the appointee extremely qualified for the position of Vice President of the United States.

ROE said he has no knowledge of any misgiving in the appointee's previous election campaign, and no information regarding any graft or corruption concerning the appointee's personal or political life.



DE 161-1355

EHH/pjf - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 18, 1973, at Ionia, Michigan:

b6  
b7C

Mr. DALE HEINLIN, 609 North Division Street, Ionia, Michigan, former Republican County Chairman, Ionia, Michigan, (1962-1967), advised that he did not know GERALD FORD personally but had spoken to him at many political functions in the Ionia area.

Mr. HEINLIN stated to the best of his knowledge, Mr. FORD is a man of high morals and an exceptionally fine gentleman. Mr. HEINLIN felt that Mr. FORD would make an excellent Vice President for the country and he was extremely pleased with Mr. FORD's appointment. He stated he knew of no reason why Mr. FORD should not be the next Vice President.

DE 101-1255

TLS:egp/dkd - 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] at Wyoming, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

b6  
b7c

Mrs. JEAN MOOD, 3720 Colby Street, Southwest, Wyoming, Michigan, was interviewed and stated that during both 1970 and 1972, she was the campaign office manager for appointed's reelection campaign and worked out of the campaign headquarters located at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mrs. MOOD advised her primary function as office manager was to supervise telephone survey work conducted by Republican volunteers. She advised she also kept the office in order.

Mrs. MOOD stated that lists of registered voters and other individuals located in the Grand Rapids area were provided by the Republican National Committee Headquarters and that calls were made to these individuals by the volunteers requesting their views as to the issues during each campaign and to solicit votes for appointed. She stated the 1972 solicitations were also conducted to encourage votes for appointed's reelection campaign. She described her relationship with appointed as a political acquaintance for over eight years and did not consider him to be a close personal friend. She advised she was definitely a SWING VOTE supporter in addition to being a Republican.

She described Mr. FORD as an honest, sincere, hard working man who conducts his duties in a highly professional manner. She stated that she did not always agree with his views, but considered him to be highly respected by both Democrats and Republicans.

DE 161-1355  
PDU/srd - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 16, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7c

ERNEST FACKLER, Director of Michigan Workmens Bureau of Compensation, 300 East Michigan, advised he is the 15th District Republican Party Chairman and he is not personally acquainted with the appointee, GERALD R. FORD, however, he has on several occasions met the appointee at political functions.

FACKLER said in his opinion the appointee is a fine individual of impeccable character, who is well-respected by his constituents in Michigan. He said that he has no knowledge of any graft or corruption in the appointee's political career and that in his opinion the appointee is an excellent choice for the position of Vice President of the United States.

FACKLER said due to limited associations with the appointee, he could offer no comments regarding the appointee's family or personal life.

DE 161-1355  
OJZ/vlm-1

POLITICAL ACQUAINTANCES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted], on October 17, 1973, at Saranac,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7C

[redacted]  
Saranac, Michigan, advised that she is the [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] stated that she first became interested in  
politics during 1962 and in this connection together with  
her sister-in-law, [redacted] hosted several "coffees"  
and "teas" for the purpose of **raising** funds for the Ionia  
County Republican Party. [redacted] advised that Mr. FORD  
was in attendance at several of these functions and that  
she had met and conversed with him at that time. She  
said that drawing from these experiences, she considers  
Mr. FORD to be highly competent and **an ethical and**  
moral individual.

She advised that she could think of no derogatory  
information concerning Mr. FORD and looks forward to **his**  
taking office as Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
OJZ/dm 1

POLITICAL ACQUAINTANCES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], at Ionia County, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

b6  
b7C

ROBERT G. GEMUEND, Attorney and former Finance Chairman, Ionia County Republican Party, 1965 to 1971, 759 Ridgewood, Ionia, Michigan, advised that he has known Mr. FORD for approximately 11 years and considers him to be an individual of unquestioned character, morals, ability and loyalty. Mr. GEMUEND stated that in his opinion, Mr. FORD is a highly ethical individual and in his opinion the most qualified individual to assume the duties of Vice-President of the United States. Mr. GEMUEND advised that he could think of nothing of a derogatory nature concerning Mr. FORD and stated that in his experience he has never met or heard of anyone in the county who mentioned derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD.

Mr. GEMUEND stated that for these reasons he would highly recommend Mr. FORD for the position of Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355

JAB/mam - 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

Mrs. CAROL GAROFOLA, [redacted]  
Michigan, advised that she had the opportunity to meet Congress-  
man GERALD R. FORD at the 1972 Republican National Convention  
in Miami, Florida. She stated that Mr. FORD held a welcome  
party for the Michigan delegation of which they were members.  
She stated that her husband is the Chairman of the Ottawa  
County Republican Party.

Mrs. GAROFOLA advised that she has the highest regard  
for Mr. FORD as a Congressman and feels that he will make an  
excellent Vice President. She stated that Mr. FORD is a man  
of high character and added that she has never heard of any  
derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD, his family or his  
associates.

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS**

DE 161-1355  
LWL/dlc - 1

DEMOCRATIC PUBLIC OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Pontiac,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7C

ELIZABETH P. HOWE, who resides at 206 Charles, Rochester, Michigan, telephone number [REDACTED], and is the Chairman of the Oakland County, Michigan, Democratic Party, was interviewed at Oakland County Democratic Party Headquarters, 17000 South Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Michigan, telephone number 334-0971, and provided the following information:

Mrs. HOWE stated she has derived her knowledge of Vice-President designate FORD solely from newspapers and television. She has never met FORD and has no direct knowledge of his background or qualifications for the position of Vice-President of the United States.

Mrs. HOWE advised she knew of no derogatory information concerning FORD's associates, loyalty, reputation, or moral character, and based on this, she would recommend him for a position of trust and responsibility with the United States Government.

Mrs. HOWE added she had no information to provide regarding FORD's legal qualifications or financial background, and stated that she believed his views on civil rights conformed to those of his constituents in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area.



DE 161-1355  
HJM:dkd - 1

STATE DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED]:

b6  
b7c

PRINCE MOON, Assistant Director of Walter and May Ruther Family Education Center, Onaway, Michigan, where he also resides, advised on October 17, 1973, he has been chairman of the 13th District of the Democratic Organization, Detroit, Michigan, for the past six years, a position he will now resign, having accepted his present position.

He stated he felt there was very little information he could furnish relative to the appointee, as he has only had a couple of direct contacts with him. One contact with the appointee was in 1964 when he, MOON, was a member of the Democratic State Central Committee for Michigan. He stated his other contact was in 1968. Both of these contacts took place at meetings held in connection with matters of government.

Mr. MOON advised neither from his own personal knowledge, nor from his numerous contacts with other members of his own party, has he ever heard anything derogatory about the appointee. He advised in his opinion, the appointee would do a good job as Vice President. Additionally, he stated the appointee is a conservative who will carry out his conservative views, but is never the last to enter an issue and does not vacillate in his decisions.

DE 161-1355  
WTJ:jas - 1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

b6  
b7C

H. DAVID SOET, Attorney, 444 Morris, Southeast,  
Grand Rapids, advised that he does not know GERALD R. FORD,  
JR. personally, nor has he had any professional dealings  
with Mr. FORD.

Mr. SOET stated that he is the Secretary of the  
Democratic Party, Kent County, Michigan, and that in that  
position, he has heard rumors to the effect that Mr. FORD's  
wife had sued him for divorce several years ago in Grand  
Rapids, however, the suit was dropped.

In addition, he stated that he had heard a rumor  
indicating that Mr. FORD's mother and [ ] were  
arrested about seven or eight years ago in East Grand  
Rapids on a narcotics charge. Subsequently, Mrs. FORD's  
record was "mysteriously cleared" at the request of some  
unknown high official. To the best of his recollection,  
Mr. SOET believes the rumor to have originated from [ ]  
[ ] whom he described as [ ] in the Grand Rapids  
area.

Mr. SOET stated that he knows nothing detrimental  
about GERALD FORD personally.

DE 161-1355  
JHC:jas - 1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 19, 1973:

Records check at the Kent County Clerks Office  
showed that there is no record that Mr. FORD's wife ever  
filed for a divorce from Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
JHC/emp - 1

POLITICAL ADVERSARY

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

b6  
b7C

Mr. LEO WALSH, 4234 Greenbair Court, SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed and provided the following information regarding GERALD R. FORD, JR.:

Mr. WALSH stated that he has known Mr. FORD for approximately thirty years in a professional status. He stated that he has discussed legislation with him and also contacted him regarding Mr. FORD's constituent problems. He advised that Mr. FORD has been more than cooperative.

He described Mr. FORD as an honest, sincere, reliable individual of high integrity. Mr. WALSH stated that he is not personally familiar with Mr. FORD's views on civil rights but stated that it is his feeling that Mr. FORD is a moderate in this area and not militant or opposed to minority action.

Mr. WALSH indicated that he is aware of no derogatory information concerning any associates of Congressman FORD. He stated that FORD is conservative in the **Republican** Party-line image and that he has a great loyalty to the President.

He went on to elaborate in this area by stating that his loyalty to the President is almost to a point of servitude. Based on this and the fact that he does not feel that Mr. FORD possesses extraordinary qualities, abilities and talents to assume the position of President of the United States, he reserves his recommendation of Mr. FORD. He further advised that it was his feeling that Mr. FORD lacks background in political action and foreign affairs to qualify him for such a position.

In conclusion, Mr. WALSH indicated that he feels GERALD FORD is a "good and sound man" but he does not feel that he is qualified for appointment as Vice President. Mr. WALSH advised that he is an attorney affiliated with the Democratic Party in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area.

DE 161-1355  
CDM/jms:clc - 1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7C

Senator STANLEY F. ROZYCKI, Democrat, 3rd District, advised that he has known Mr. GERALD R. FORD for approximately eight years. He advised he has known Mr. FORD's family, in particular his brother, THOMAS FORD, for a much longer period of time. He stated he has the highest regard for the appointee and would recommend him for any government position. He stated he has never heard by rumor, implication, or otherwise, any information that could be construed as negative regarding the appointee's character, reputation or associations.

DE 161-1355  
EHH/lim:clc - 1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] at Ionia, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

b6  
b7C

Mr. DONALD L. STANTON, Democratic Mayor, 405 North Jefferson, Ionia, advised he has never met Mr. GERALD R. FORD personally, but has corresponded with Mr. FORD on various political matters concerning the City of Ionia.

Mr. STANTON stated Mr. FORD has always responded to any communications sent to him and has always been most helpful.

Mr. STANTON advised that although his political views were different from Mr. FORD's, he feels Mr. FORD should make an outstanding Vice President for the United States and feels that Mr. FORD is a man of high morals and impeccable integrity.

Mr. STANTON advised he knows nothing derogatory concerning Mr. FORD, and his only regret concerning the appointment of Mr. FORD is that Michigan will lose an outstanding Congressman.

DE 161-1355  
JCE/dlc:kc:lrc -1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [ ] on October 17, 1973, at  
Grand Rapids, Michigan:

Mr. FRED J. EARDLEY, 1201 Ben Hertog, SW, Grand  
Rapids, Michigan, residence telephone [ ] advised he  
has been an elected Democratic member of the Kent County  
Board of Commissioners for approximately the last 15 years.

Mr. EARDLEY said that he has known Representative  
FORD for approximately 15 years. He has met him on numerous  
occasions personally and their dealings have always been  
related to city and county business.

Mr. EARDLEY stated that in spite of the fact that  
he is a Democrat, he would have no hesitation in recommending  
Representative FORD for any elective or appointive post.

Mr. EARDLEY further stated, approximately one year  
ago he heard from an unrecalled source that the Daverman  
Construction and Engineering Company of Grand Rapids, was  
supplying free air travel to Representative FORD. This air  
travel was provided by this company to the appointee for  
his convenience for numerous trips between the Grand Rapids  
area and Washington, D.C. Mr. EARDLEY could be no more  
specific in this regard and reiterated that this information  
was merely hearsay and he was unable to identify its source.  
In spite of this information, Mr. EARDLEY said he has no  
hesitation in recommending Representative FORD for favorable  
consideration for the office of Vice President.

He characterized him as an effective political  
leader and a person whom he believes to be most qualified  
for any office in the government.

b6  
b7c

DE 161-1355  
JWA/msl - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Comstock Park,  
Michigan:

CARL G. BIENER, President, Biener Construction Company, 4970 West River Road, Comstock Park, Michigan, advised that he has been in the construction business for ten years, primarily in the underground sewer and street construction end of the business.

BIENER stated that at the present time he has four contracts involving Federal funds in the City of Grand Rapids. BIENER advised that although this work is in Congressman GERALD FORD's district, he has never met Mr. FORD and has never heard of any derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD.

BIENER further advised that because of his personal contacts in the construction business and additional professional acquaintances, he would be in a position to be made aware of any derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD. BIENER said that no such information has come to his attention.

BIENER stated that although he does not know Mr. FORD personally, he does hold him in right regard.



DE 161-1355  
JWA/msl - 1

b6  
b7C

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 18, 1973 at Comstock Park, Michigan:

FRANK G. BREUKINK, Office Manager, Woodland Paving Company, 3566 Millcreek Road, Comstock Park, Michigan (364-9461) furnished the following information:

He has been with the company for approximately 1½ years which has been established since 1969. To the best of his knowledge, there has been only one contact with Congressman GERALD FORD. This was via a letter on September 28, 1973, to Mr. FORD in reference to the shortage of asphalt. Mr. FORD replied and that was the termination of the contact.

BREUKINK further advised that the company has completed approximately \$800,000 in Federally funded contracts in 1973 to date.

BREUKINK stated that he does not know Mr. FORD personally and he has never heard any derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
WTH/kpd -1

b6  
b7c

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

JOEL E. KRISOFF, 2432 Santa Monica, East Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed at his place of employment, Hillman, Baxter, and Hammond, Attorneys at Law, 430 Federal Square Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He furnished the following information:

He is a casual acquaintance of GERALD FORD. He lived across the street from the FORDs for approximately 20 years. He has never had any personal or professional relationship with Mr. FORD but from his casual acquaintanceship with him he can state that Mr. FORD is a man of high integrity and of sound moral character. He advised that Mr. FORD enjoys an excellent reputation and all of his associates are reputable people. He noted that Mr. FORD is a very loyal and dedicated American and Mr. FORD is very well qualified for the position of Vice-President. Mr. FORD appears to be a very competent individual.

KRISOFF could not comment on Mr. FORD's civil rights position nor his competency regarding his years when he was in private practice as an attorney. He advised that he ran for State Representative against Mr. FORD's half-brother, THOMAS FORD, and all his contacts with GERALD FORD and THOMAS FORD revealed they are people of excellent character. He stated that Mr. GERALD FORD has always been very courteous in his contacts with him and he noted that Mr. GERALD FORD is a man who has an excellent background. He stated that he would recommend Mr. GERALD FORD for the position of Vice-President. He noted, however, that he is a Democrat and therefore disagrees with many of Mr. GERALD FORD's political opinions, but he stated that Mr. GERALD FORD's integrity is beyond question and that he is a sound choice for the position of Vice-President.

DE 161-1355  
DCL/lim - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED], at Detroit, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

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b7C

WALTER LEE MATHIS, 1039 Ionia, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number [REDACTED], was interviewed at 1200 Book Building, Detroit, and provided the following information:

MATHIS has known GERALD R. FORD since 1968 when FORD was a 5th District Congressman and MATHIS was a Republican running for election as Kent County Commissioner. MATHIS received a financial contribution (amount unknown) from the Republican Party in honor of GERALD FORD to assist in his campaign. MATHIS was defeated in this election.

In 1970 MATHIS changed his party affiliation from Republican to Democratic and was elected as Kent County Commissioner. He has served in this capacity to the present date. He continued his association with Mr. FORD but received no financial contribution for his campaign subsequent to the 1968 elections.

MATHIS knows of no derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD and considers him to maintain the highest moral standards, whose character is beyond reproach, and whose loyalty to the United States Government is relentless.

MATHIS has noted that Mr. FORD is a very conservative politician who exhibits integrity and competence in his decisions. In his opinion, Mr. FORD has emphasized fairness in civil rights affairs, instituting reforms and policies without effecting an imbalance of interest.

If afforded the opportunity, Mr. FORD would serve the United States of America honorably as Vice President.

MATHIS provided his business addresses as follows:

Kent County Commissioner, 300 Monroe, NW,  
Grand Rapids, 456-3000.

DE 161-1355  
JCE/ltc/dll - 2

Mr. MOONEY again reiterated he believes Mr. FORD to be an exceptionally fine man with strong character and Mr. MOONEY hopes that he will be confirmed.

DE 161-1355  
JCE/ltc/dll - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

b6  
b7c

The following investigation was conducted on October 18, 1973, by SAs [ ] and [ ] at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

Mr. J. M. MOONEY, [ ] Grand Rapids, Michigan, residence telephone [ ] advised that he is the president of Interstate Systems Incorporated, a Grand Rapids based trucking company. Mr. MOONEY stated his company is a common carrier and hauls freight in 35 states and is the sixth largest common carrier in sales.

Mr. MOONEY advised that he has known Mr. CERALD R. FORD since approximately 1963. He met him through his retired boss, Mr. LAWRENCE D. RAHILLY. He stated that he has no contact nor does he know any members of Mr. FORD's family. He has found Mr. FORD to be an outstanding individual and he believes him to be of the highest character with unimpeachable morals. He stated as far as he knows, Mr. FORD's loyalty is beyond reproach and is highly qualified for any governmental service in his opinion.

Mr. MOONEY continued that he has met with Mr. FORD on two occasions in Washington, D.C., at Mr. FORD's office. He characterized these meetings as cordial at which time he merely dropped by to say hello. He advised that he has absolutely no hesitation in recommending Mr. FORD and believes Mr. FORD will make an outstanding Vice President if confirmed.

Mr. MOONEY recalled that in the recent past there have been some efforts to change the Federal Highway Trust, which is federal money designated for road construction. He stated that environmentalists have sought to have these funds used for rapid transit systems and the like. Because he, Mr. MOONEY, heads a large trucking company, he and his fellow company members were strongly opposed to any transfer of these funds. Mr. MOONEY stated because of this, he contacted Mr. FORD and urged him not to end the highway trust fund in its current form. He recalled that Mr. FORD responded quickly, as is his practice, and advised that he intended to vote against these changes.

DE 161-1355  
GOS/peb - 1

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b7C

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan on October 19, 1973:

Mr. R. E. RIEBEL, President, Foremost Insurance Company, Centennial Corporation, 5300 Foremost Drive, Grand Rapids, Michigan, stated he has known GERALD R. FORD on an extremely limited basis since Mr. FORD became a Congressman. He advised his association with Mr. FORD is so negligible that he could not provide any information concerning Mr. FORD. He advised, however, that he has never heard any derogatory information or remarks concerning Mr. FORD's character, morals, background or associates. He remarked that Mr. FORD appeared to be a highly qualified individual and he would certainly recommend Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President of the United States.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

DE 161-1355  
DLB/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

Marriage records of the Office of the Kent  
County Clerk, Grand Rapids, were reviewed for indication of  
any marriage for GERALD RUDOLPH FORD, JR., or LESLIE KING, JR.,  
and the only marriage record located was for GERALD R.  
FORD, JR., and ELIZABETH B. WARREN on October 15, 1948.



DE 161-1355  
JMF/js:mam - 1

MARRIAGE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

[ ] Secretary, Grace Episcopal  
Church at Plymouth and Hall Avenue, Grand Rapids, provided  
the following information:

A review of the Church Marriage Records revealed  
that GERALD R. FORD, age 35, 1011 Santa Cruz Drive, Grand  
Rapids, in October, 1948, was married to ELIZABETH WARREN,  
nee Bloomer, age 30, 330 Washington, Southeast, Grand Rapids.  
On the record was listed the parents of appointee, who are  
GERALD R. FORD, SR., father, and DOROTHY M. GARDNER FORD,  
Grand Rapids. Also listed was ELIZABETH WARREN's parents,  
who are WILLIAM S. BLOOMER, father, and HORTENSE NEAHR.  
The marriage was witnessed by appointee's sister, JANET P.  
FORD, Grand Rapids, and WILLIAM J. BECKWITH, from Morris,  
Illinois, now believed to be deceased. Dr. DONALD V. CAREY,  
1430 Edgewood, Southeast, Grand Rapids, performed the  
ceremony.

DE 161-1375  
VAH/cav - 2

Name	ELIZABETH B. WILSON
Race	White
Sex	female
Age	30
Address	330 Washington, Southeast Grand Rapids, Michigan
Birth place	Chicago, Illinois
Occupation	Stylist
Father	WILLIAM S. BLOOMER
Mother	HORTENSE NEAHE
Previous marriages	One, maiden name BLOOMER

Witnessed at Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan,  
on October 15, 1948, by WILLIAM J. BECKWITH of Morris,  
Illinois, and JANET P. FORD of Grand Rapids, Michigan. D.V.  
CASEY, 150 South Lafayette Avenue Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
presiding clergy.

DE 161-1355  
VAH/emv - 1

MARRIAGE RECORDS

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
VAN A. HARP on October 17, 1973:

AT LANSING, MICHIGAN

[redacted], Information Clerk, Bureau of  
Vital Statistics, 3500 North Logan Street, advised that a  
review of the following records for the entire State of  
Michigan for the years 1928 through 1948 failed to disclose  
information identifiable with either LESLIE KING or GERALD  
RUDOLPH FORD, JR.:

1. Probate Marriage
2. Divorce Records

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b7C

[redacted] advised that the marriage license  
records for the entire State of Michigan for the same per-  
iod of time reflected one marriage for the applicant, that  
being on October 15, 1948. Marriage license number 4146937,  
reflected the following information:

Name	GERALD R. FORD, JR.
Age	35
Race	White
Sex	Male
Address	1011 Santa Cruz Drive, South- east, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Birth place	Omaha, Nebraska
Occupation	Attorney
Father	GERALD R. FORD, SR.
Mother	DOROTHY GARDNER
Previous marriages	No previous marriages

MARRIAGE

## Chased Jerry

### Down Ski Slopes

Among the local eligibles was a popular young lawyer, Jerry Ford, a former University of Michigan football star.

"I can't remember when I first met Jerry, but the most important part began when I chased him down hill on skis," Mrs. Ford recalled.

"We'd been dating, and I knew how much he enjoyed skiing. I decided that if I wanted to be with him on weekends, I'd better learn. I

went out, bought skis, and Jerry taught me."

She was 30, Ford was 35, when they were married in Grace Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids on Oct. 15, 1948.

Last Monday evening, their 25th anniversary, the Fords attended a White House dinner honoring departing Secretary of State William Rogers.

The preceding weekend Ford had told a news conference he doesn't plan to run in '76. When he learned his wife felt that way, too, he chuckled: "That makes it official!"

On the night Ford was nominated, Mrs. Ford, who didn't expect him to be the choice, lost a \$5 bet to her daughter Susan.

She recalled the White House phone call that evening:

"It was about 7:30. We'd had dinner. General Haig (a top Nixon aide) told us the President would nominate Jerry.

"I didn't even say, 'oh really.' I just said, 'Ugh, ugh' to everything."

With 20 minutes to change from slacks to appropriate dress, she rushed upstairs. With television in mind, she selected a vivid green high-necked, belted, floor-length dress, adding her Presidential seal pin.

She waited quietly in an office near the East Room until the President made the announcement, to the cheers of Ford's Congressional colleagues, then joined the distinguished gathering.

Betty Ford sees the next three years "not as a burden, but as an interesting and exciting experience," she said.

Should something happen to Mr. Nixon, and Ford be thrust into the presidency, how would she feel about it?

"I haven't entertained the thought. Jerry isn't even confirmed yet. I'm a person who crosses each bridge as it comes along, because I find plans often can be turned around."

If fate does single out her husband, Betty Ford is the kind of wife who will go along -- no matter how she may feel privately.

began a series of visits with a Washington psychiatrist.

She revealed that Ford consulted with the psychiatrist "a couple of times" about her problem.

"I would hate to ruin my husband's career, but he went because I was going," Mrs. Ford smiled. "When the doctor said he wanted to talk with Jerry about me, he, of course, co-operated."

Mrs. Ford describes the treatment as "very helpful. After sitting down and talking over the problem of being here alone quite a bit, and having to make decisions on the children at crucial stages of their growing up, I felt I had been assuming the role of both mother and father."

"The idea was to make me realize I must think of myself and not be so concerned with my family."

Mrs. Ford said she gets some relief from a drug called "Equigesic," a combination tranquilizer and analgesic used for treatment of pain accompanied by tension or anxiety.

Surgery has been ruled out, she said, due to the location of the nerve at the base of the skull.

### Hopes to See Him More Often

Mrs. Ford hopes she'll see more of her husband if he is confirmed as vice-president than she has in his nine years as minority leader, a job she agrees is "a killer."

As an admirer of the work of National Arts Council chairman Nancy Hanks, Mrs. Ford hopes to do something in that field if and when she becomes the nation's second-ranking official wife.

Mrs. Ford has a quick smile,

the slim figure of a college girl, and is one of the most smartly-turned-out Congressional wives. Not too long ago an admirer tagged her "the thinking man's Rita Hayworth."

For the interview, she wore a white ultra-suede shirt dress, brown alligator pumps, gold jewelry, and a pearl-bordered pin bearing the Presidential seal, a Christmas gift from the Nixons.

She sat in a living room brightened with flowers sent by admiring friends and filled with the hanging of carpenters and telephone men.

"I don't know how many phones we have now," she said.

Out front a pair of Secret Service agents, parked in a mobile unit in the driveway, screened all visitors.

Son Steve, 17, clattered in and out with a friend, and a neighbor stood by to answer the telephone and door. The house, filled with pictures and mementoes, bears the marks of a happy, close-knit family life.

While Ford was rising to Congressional leadership, necessarily spending much time on the road, Mrs. Ford ran the home, reared four children, campaigned for her husband, and fulfilled endless official chores.

Apparently she has few regrets about the dancer's career she gave up. She terms Ford "a marvelous husband."

"He's very thoughtful and even-tempered. Even though he has to be away, he calls me every night. When he's home he discusses politics or pending bills with Steve and Susan. We all swim and ski together."

Then she laughed, "And Jerry's the best dishwasher in the country when he's willing to do it! That's how he worked his way through college."

Although the Fords' two oldest sons are now away, the family keeps in touch. Michael, 23, attends Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary near Boston, and Jack, 21, a senior at the University of Utah, surprised his father on a recent visit with his freshly

grown beard.

Steve is in his last year at nearby T. C. Williams High, and 16-year-old Susan boards at Holton Arms girls' school in Washington, spending her weekends at home.

Mrs. Ford is "not in the least" disturbed by comments that her husband would be no more than a caretaker in the new job. She predicts, "He will work very well with Mr. Nixon and with the Congress."

Nor is she apprehensive about the exhaustive investigation and hearings in store, which are expected to take about a month.

She hasn't decided whether to attend the hearings, but has spent time "wondering what they could come up with that might be detrimental. I can't think of a thing."

Her husband plans to open the books in his Washington and Grand Rapids offices to the investigators, Mrs. Ford said, adding that "Jerry doesn't claim to be 100 percent perfect. But if he's made a mistake, it's not intentional."

Born Elizabeth Bloomer in Chicago, Ill., she moved to Grand Rapids at the age of three and has always considered it her home.

After graduation from Fountain Street elementary school and Central High, Betty spent two years studying modern dance at Bennington College in Vermont under the direction of Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman and Hanya Holm.

She continued her studies in New York, where Miss Graham encouraged her ambitions for a concert career. But about that time Betty's mother visited her and pointed out the sacrifices entailed.

The two agreed Betty would return to Grand Rapids for six months. At the end of that time, if she still preferred a dance career, she would return to Manhattan.

Back home, Betty picked up ties with old friends and took a job as assistant fashion co-ordinator at a local store. She organized a dance group of young women, and was soon giving performances.

"It was fun. I paid my piano player, Wally Hook, 50 cents, and charged the girls about a quarter for lessons."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# 25 YEARS AS MRS. JERRY FORD

# Stresses, Strains of Political Wifehood

BY VERA GLASER

Knight Newspapers Writer

WASHINGTON — Betty Ford is a good soldier who talks like she wants out.

She is happy, excited, and proud about her husband's nomination to the nation's second highest office, and says she looks forward to her enhanced public role for the next three years.

But down deep Betty Ford, 55, yearns for the day "Jerry" returns to private law practice.

"It may be selfish," said the pretty, auburn-haired wife of Vice-president-designate Gerald R. Ford, "but I wouldn't want him to run in '76. We've spent all of our married life in government service. I look forward to some time for ourselves."

An hour's relaxed conversation in the Fords' comfortable home in suburban Alexandria, Va., gives one the feeling Betty Ford means it.

## Stress Has Taken Its Toll of Health

She is a quietly spunky woman, qualified by 25 years of political partnership for what lies ahead.

But behind the honors and acclaim she helped her husband earn are the years — demanding and often lonely — of political wifehood. The stress has taken a toll of her health. It shows at times when her green eyes are shadowed with pain or her speech slows down.

Since 1965, the year her husband became GOP House leader, she has suffered from a pinched nerve in her neck.

She takes medication for the frequent pain, has had hospital therapy, and about a year ago

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1C

DETROIT FREE PRESS  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Date: 10/19/73

Edition:

Author: VERA GLASER

Editor: JOSEPH H. STROUD

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

☐ Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Feminist calls Ford sexist, deplores nomination as VP

By JOHN E. PETERSON

News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The president and founder of the Feminist Party believes President Nixon's nomination of Rep. Gerald R. Ford as vice-president will be "one of the most tragic mistakes in recent American political history."

"The nomination of an out and out sexist like Jerry Ford is utterly outrageous," said Florynce B. Kennedy.

"Ford fought the Equal Rights Amendment, campaigned against abortion reform and

publicly opposed funding of day-care centers. If there's a bigger male chauvinist pig in Congress, I have no idea who he is."

She and women from six of the 150 Feminist Party chapters around the country particularly protested what they called "the media's failure to publicize Ford's horrendous record on civil and human rights."

"The widespread acceptance of Gerald Ford by the press shows how hungry the media is bury the Watergate affair once and for all," said Sandra Hochman, author of the feminist novel "Walking Papers," and writer and director of the film, "The Year of the Woman," a satire on sexism at the 1972 Democratic Convention.

Miss Kennedy said the Feminist Party would have backed three congresswomen — Rep. Martha Griffiths, D-Mich., Rep. Shirley Chisholm, D-N.Y., and Rep. Margaret M. Heckler, R-Mass. — if they had been nominated by Mr. Nixon.

"All three are immeasurably better qualified to be vice-president than Jerry Ford," she declared.

The Feminist Party, a militant version of the National Organization for Woman (NOW), claims about 10,000 members in 36 states.

Miss Kennedy was particularly upset with Ford's stance on two politically controversial issues in Michigan — abortion reform and cross-district bussing of schoolchildren for racial balance. She blamed "Ford's staunch Catholicism" (actually he is an Episcopalian) for his anti-abortion reform stand.

"He keeps talking about the right to life, but he sure wasn't much concerned about it when he was voting all those appropriations for Vietnam."

She also lashed Ford for "accommodating that idiot Irene McCabe and all those racist women in Michigan who oppose cross-district bussing."

"If black people in Detroit acted as unlawfully as all those racist women in the suburbs," she said, "Ford would be heading the lynching party."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Detroit News  
Detroit, Michigan  
Page 1

Date: October 19, 1973

Edition: Evening

Author: John E. Peterson

Editor: Martin S. Hayden

Title: Feminist Calls  
Ford Sexist, Deplores  
Nomination as VP

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Who probes the probers?

FBI agents are snooping around Detroit, Grand Rapids and other places, asking a lot of questions about Congressman Jerry Ford—making inquiries about his personal affairs. They are preparing dossiers for congressional hearings on confirmation of Ford as vice-president of this land.

The bloodhounds have been unleashed in the field by law and the specific order of Sen. Howard W. Cannon Jr., Nevada Democrat who is chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, and Rep. Peter Rodino, New Jersey Democrat and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. What we would like to know is—who investigated them?

The question is asked in the spirit of fair play. Sen. Cannon, for example, has demanded that Ford give him a financial statement and has asked President Nixon to rule that Ford's income tax records may be released for public examination.

Well, since Sen. Cannon is the leader of the group which is to make the first decision on Ford's confirmation, why should we not also know something about his personal credentials? And having set that precedent, why not

also have a crack—publicly, of course—at the personal files of Rep. Rodino?

And let's carry that a little further. Why not suggest that all candidates for Congress lay their necks on the cutting block before they are allowed to run, exposing all of their financial dealings before the electorate as a qualification for candidacy?

If that idea sounds ludicrous, so does the investigation of Jerry Ford. He has been a public servant for a quarter of a century. He hasn't been involved in any scandals, such as taking an attractive blonde female spy to lunch. He hasn't had any nervous breakdowns, and he has been able to demonstrate that he hasn't consulted with any psychologists, although he may have consorted with one or two.

The Jerry Ford case is a good example of Washington "overkill" when a branch of government other than Congress is involved. Why not balance the inequity a bit and have some information on the congressional "investigators"?

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Detroit News  
Detroit, Michigan

Editorial page,  
18A

Date: October 19, 1973

Edition: Afternoon

Author:

Editor: Martin S. Hayden

Title: Who Probes the  
Probers?

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

an Alaska airplane crash late in last year's political campaign.

Records of contributions and expenditures to and from the Boggs committee in 1972, on file in the House Clerk's office, don't reflect any spinoff of funds to other politicians.

Albert would not comment yesterday on his philosophies about using his own political committee to help the fortunes of other Democrats.

But two legislative aides close to Albert said the speaker is strongly opposed to channeling his own to others.

"Mr. Albert believes people should contribute money directly to those they wish to help," said Michael C. Reed, legislative assistant to the speaker.

One of those Ford selected to help with funds contributed to the Ford campaign was Bob Wolthuis of Utah, who was running for Congress for the first time. The Wolthuis campaign was given \$1,000.

The man he ran against, Rep. Gunn McKay, the Democratic incumbent, won the election in a landslide.

"We were delighted to see Mr. Ford of Michigan take an interest in our campaign out in Utah," said Phil Ladd, administrative aide to McKay.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Albert denies pact with Ford on funds

By SETH KANTOR  
News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Carl Albert has denied any agreement with Rep. Gerald R. Ford that encouraged Ford, the vice-presidential nominee, to funnel his own unused campaign funds to other politicians.

According to Ford's own estimates, he rechanneled about one out of every four dollars sent to his 1972 reelection campaign to Republicans running for other offices in Michigan and other states.

Ford, R-Mich., told The Detroit News he redistributed about "\$24,000 to \$25,000" in funds contributed to him through two campaign committees in Grand Rapids. The two committees raised just under \$100,000 in 1972 for Ford, the House minority leader.



CARL ALBERT

Shortly after Albert, D-Okla., issued a denial yesterday afternoon that he had sanctioned any kind of campaign funds spinoff plan, Ford sent a terse statement to The Detroit News.

"Apparently I erred," Ford said through a spokesman. "I was inaccurate in any recollection that Carl Albert had participated" in approving the spinoff plan.

The aide to Ford would not elaborate on the statement by the House GOP leader and he would not comment when asked if Albert and Ford had discussed the matter privately yesterday afternoon.

In an interview Monday night with The Detroit News in his Capitol Hill office, Ford recalled that he "has consistently received more money for my campaigns than I could spend."

Speaker Albert and the late Majority Leader Hale Boggs, D-La., "were faced with the same problem," Ford said.

The three men worked out an agreement in 1972, whereby they would siphon off funds meant for their own campaigns into the political races of others, Ford said.

There is nothing illegal about such an arrangement, according to sources in Washington knowledgeable about campaign contribu-

tions law, so long as the use of the money is properly reported.

Denials by Albert that he participated in any kind of plan to spin off political contributions is backed up by 1972 campaign records on file in the House clerk's office. They show no funds were channeled into other campaigns from the Albert for Congress Club — the Oklahoma organization set up to handle the speaker's contributions and expenditures.

Records show a trickle of contributions were made to the Albert campaign last year. Most were from his rural district. Most of the contributions were for \$100 or less.

Unlike the two Ford committees, which received big-money contributions from organizations other than in Michigan, the Albert campaign was traditionally local in flavor.

Albert and Ford are drawing a lot of attention in the nation's capital this week. They are the two men in Congress with Secret Service protection wherever they go. Albert, as speaker of the House, is next in line to the presidency with the vice-presidential resignation of Spiro T. Agnew. Ford is President Nixon's choice to become the new vice-president.

Albert may remain the nation's temporary "vice-president" for several weeks, in the wake of demands by Democrats on Capitol Hill that Ford's qualifications be checked out thoroughly.

Campaign contributions and expenditures form one aspect of the investigation into Ford's background. Records from 1972 show that \$98,615 was collected in Ford's behalf by the two Grand Rapids groups — the Ford for Congress and Friends of Jerry Ford committees.

Most of the transfers to the campaigns of other Republicans came from the Ford for Congress Committee, which took in contributions totaling \$78,272 in 1972 from donors who apparently thought they were just helping Ford.

The Friends of Jerry Ford reported receiving contributions of \$29,343 last year.

Among those aided by the Ford committees were three men running for state legislative posts in Michigan. Others included congressional candidates in several states.

Ford said he had picked those to whom the contributions went.

Boggs, the late majority leader, was killed in

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1A THE DETROIT NEWS  
— DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Date: 10/18/73  
Edition: FINAL  
Author:  
Editor: MARTIN S. HAYDEN  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Detroit  
☐ Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

*An Honest, Open Record***Ford: Only an Indiscretion****BY JACK ANDERSON**

WASHINGTON — The Agnew affair points up the limitations of investigative reporting. The bloodhounds of the press are expected to sniff out scandal in high places with little more to guide them than their nose for news.

Two years ago, for example, we investigated whispers that Spiro Agnew had pocketed bribes from Maryland contractors. We went into Maryland armed only with a notebook and a pencil. But a notebook is no substitute for a subpoena, and a pencil is a poor prod compared to the Justice Department's power to grant witnesses immunity.

We were told about the pattern of payoffs. We even dug out two witnesses who admitted they had slipped cash payments to Agnew.

But in each case, no one else saw the money passed, and the cash couldn't be traced. Eventually, we laid our findings before Agnew but he denied everything. The evidence simply wasn't sufficient to accuse the vice president of the United States of a crime. It took the Justice Department to do that two years later.

In contrast with Agnew, his designated successor, Gerald Ford, has a reputation for openness and honesty. Sources close to him say he won't accept cash contributions although he has a politician's constant need for campaign funds.

But we have never heard the slightest suggestion that he has ever diverted a dime to his own personal use.

The closest to a political skeleton we have



found in his closet was a bespectacled lobbyist named Robert Winter-Berger, who had been associated with fixer Nathan Voloshen and convicted House aide Martin Sweigh.

We reported on Jan. 27, 1970, that Winter-Berger "operated occasionally out of Ford's office." We stressed: "No one who knows Jerry Ford believes he would allow his name to be used by an influence-peddling ring. But in the back-scratching, favor-swapping environment on Capitol Hill, it is easy for a con man to take advantage of a congressman's potent name."

Two years later, Winter-Berger gave up lobbying and published his confessions in a book called "The Washington Pay-Off." He boasted of his dealings with Ford.

The vice presidential nominee has now made his files on Winter-Berger available to us. These show the lobbyist gained access to Ford on the recommendation of a trusted friend. The congressman's late administrative assistant, Frank Meyer, arranged some routine political favors for Winter-Berger's clients, such as writing a Ford endorsement for an organization seeking to standardize the world calendar and recommending International Mining President Frank Kellogg for a diplomatic appointment.

At Winter-Berger's behest, Ford also arranged an immigration extension for a Dutch psychiatrist, Dr. Albert A. Buyten-dorp, to continue his research work in the U.S.

In return for these political favors, the lobbyist made a few nominal contributions to various GOP campaign chests. These donations ranged from \$125 to \$500. Ford thanked him for them in letters addressed "Dear Bob" and signed "Jerry."

It would appear that Ford's relationship with the lobbyist, although indiscreet, was not a serious scandal.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

9A

DETROIT FREE PRESS  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Date: 10/18/73

Edition:

Author: JACK ANDERSON

Editor: JOSEPH H. STROUD

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 22 1973	
FBI — DETROIT	

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

DE 161-1355  
WE/pap - 1

NEWS MEDIA

b6  
b7c

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted], at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

ROBERT MALONE, Acting Station Director, Regional Broadcasters of Michigan, 122 Lyon, Northwest, advised on October 17, 1973, that his firm operates WGRD Radio as an entertainment and news medium in the Grand Rapids area. MALONE stated that although he does not know appointee personally he considers him to be a very cordial, trustworthy individual who enjoys an unimpeachable reputation in the Grand Rapids area. MALONE stated that his impression of appointee is that he is not a controversial figure, and that as far as he knows appointee's associates are of the highest character and reputation. He considers the appointee to be a very loyal American and a strong supporter of the United States form of Government. MALONE concluded by stating that he highly recommends appointee for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
WE/pap/mmr - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted on October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED], at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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b7C

JACK HOPPUS, Operations Manager, Grand Lakes Broadcasting Corporation, 210 Federal Square Building, advised that his firm operates radio station WMAX in the Grand Rapids area.

HOPPUS advised that he has known appointee only slightly and only on a professional basis since 1959. He stated that the one thing that stands out in his mind about appointee is that he continually keeps his constituency in mind and that he is very responsive to the problems in the Western Michigan area and the Fifth Congressional District of Michigan. HOPPUS stated that although he has no knowledge of appointee's stand on civil rights he considers him to be socially unbiased and a believer in equal rights for all. He believes that appointee is exceptionally honest and forthright in his dealings with others, and that he enjoys a very fine reputation among all who know him. HOPPUS said that appointee is undoubtedly one of the most loyal and patriotic Americans and he highly recommends appointee for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
TFS/bjk/dmg - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

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b7c

WILLIAM E. KUIPER [ ] Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Vice President, WFUR Radio, 399 Garfield, Southwest, Grand Rapids, advised that he has known Mr. FORD for the past 20 years and has found appointee to be a very receptive man. He advised that he knows nothing of a detrimental nature concerning Mr. GERALD FORD whatsoever. KUIPER stated that Mr. FORD is "one of the most honest individuals I've met."

Mr. KUIPER further advised that Mr. FORD's reputation as to sobriety, honesty, trustworthiness, and reliability, is excellent and he is respected by all. Mr. KUIPER further advised that there is no question as to Mr. FORD's loyalty and allegiance to the United States and its constituted form of government.

Mr. KUIPER stated that Mr. FORD has been very fair regarding civil rights matters. He concluded by stating, "To me he has always wanted to do the right thing. If he has ever done anything amiss, I sure don't know about it. He has an excellent record here." Mr. KUIPER stated he would recommend Mr. FORD for Vice President of the United States.



DE 161-1355  
WNA/mam - 1

NEWS MEDIA

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

On October 17, 1973, RICHARD CHEVERTON, News Director, WOTV, 120 College, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, furnished the following information regarding GERALD R. FORD:

CHEVERTON advised he has known Mr. FORD for approximately 17 years in connection with his employment as a newsman. In all the articles CHEVERTON has edited regarding Mr. FORD, he has never found any derogatory information pertaining to Mr. FORD's loyalty, character, or personal life. Mr. FORD was a practicing attorney in Grand Rapids before going to Washington and was considered one of the finest attorneys in the area. He is a member of the Masonic Temple and all of his associates are above average citizens. Mr. FORD has pushed Civil Rights legislation and is a firm believer in equal rights for all citizens.

In closing, CHEVERTON stated Mr. FORD is a frank, straightforward individual with all the necessary qualifications for Vice President of the United States and whom CHEVERTON highly recommends for this position.

Best Available Copy

DE 161-1281  
TTP/cjn - 1

NEWS MEDIA

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b7c

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1978 at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

Mr. JACE L. HOGAN [redacted], Southeast,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, News Director, WZZM, Channel  
13, 645 3 Mile Road, Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
advised that he has known GERALD FORD from both a business  
and social standpoint since 1963.

HOGAN advised that Mr. FORD's reputation as to  
honesty, trustworthiness, reliability and judgment is sound.  
HOGAN views Mr. FORD as a conservative politician. HOGAN  
said Mr. FORD works hard at his job all of the time.  
HOGAN maintained that Mr. FORD never makes a move without  
due consideration. HOGAN further stated he never found any  
indication of dishonesty in Mr. FORD's background.

HOGAN could not recall any activities of Mr.  
FORD which would reflect unfavorably on him or the office of  
the Vice President. He has a well defined sense of loyalty  
and allegiance to the United States and its constituted  
forms of Government.

HOGAN advised that every one of Mr. FORD's  
associations that he knows of, are people in the Republican  
Party that have worked many years with him and have good  
reputations.

HOGAN could find no fault with Mr. FORD's actions  
and statements concerning civil rights.

WNA/pjw/psn - 1  
DE 161-1355

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 17, 1973:

BOB BURTON, News Director, WOOD Radio, 120 College, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, provided the following information regarding GERALD R. FORD:

BURTON has been employed by WOOD Radio and has resided in Grand Rapids for approximately 18 months. During his first week on the job he met the appointee while covering a news event in which the appointee participated. Since this first encounter, BURTON has talked with the appointee on numerous occasions during the course of his assigned duties as a News Director. BURTON advised the appointee's character, morals and loyalty are all beyond reproach. He stated the appointee's stand on civil rights favors minority groups and his associates in public and private life are all loyal citizens.

BURTON closed by stating he knew of no derogatory information regarding the appointee and that, in his opinion, the appointee would make the best Vice President since HARRY TRUMAN.

DE 161-1355  
WNA/emv - 1

NEWS MEDIA

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA

[REDACTED]:

On October 17, 1973, GLEN GILBERT, Station Manager, WKZO TV, 230 Ann, Northwest Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known GERALD A. FORD for three years and could think of no derogatory information whatsoever concerning this man's character, morals, loyalty or public and private life. He advised Mr. FORD believes in equal rights for all, including minority groups, and has pushed for civil rights legislation in this area. Mr. GILBERT added Mr. FORD has many personal and professional associates in the Grand Rapids area, all of whom are above reproach.

Mr. GILBERT concluded he would highly recommend Mr. FORD for Vice President, as he has all the qualifications to do an excellent job.

DE 161-355

WNA:fln:MOS - 5

May 26, 1973 - FORD is positive NIXON is in the clear regarding Watergate. Mr. FORD advised his convictions were based on the President's own statements regarding Watergate and mail he has received from his constituents.

DE 161-1355  
WNA:fln:MOS - 4

April 19, 1972 - The book "The Washington Payoff" by lobbyist ROBERT N. WINTER-BERGER released in April, 1972, cited GERALD R. FORD as an honest politician interested in raising funds for his party; but the book also said Mr. FORD invited contributions from a man who sought favors from him. WINTER-BERGER claims Mr. FORD and his associates helped him on many occasions and that he has many letters and memos from Mr. FORD locked in the bank vault.

Mr. FORD recollects helping WINTER-BERGER only once in an immigration case involving a physician from The Netherlands. Mr. FORD said his files contain only duplicates of seven letters sent to WINTER-BERGER all related to the immigration case.

Mr. FORD advised he was unaware of WINTER-BERGER's lobbying work.

WINTER-BERGER stated he received letters from Mr. FORD acknowledging two \$500.00 contributions to the Kent County Republican Committee and to the GOP Congressional Boosters Club, and a \$250.00 donation to a GOP legislative dinner. In a letter which began, "Dear Bob", and was signed "Sincerely Jerry," Mr. FORD said, "Many thanks for your wonderful contribution to our Kent County Campaign effort. I am enclosing a copy of the letter ... forwarding the check ... to the GOP in Grand Rapids."

June 23, 1972 - Mr. FORD tours Red China with HALE BOGGS. Mr. FORD and Mr. BOGGS followed Senate Democratic and Republican leaders, Senators MIKE MANSFIELD and HUGH SCOTT, who made a similar trip several weeks ago. Mr. BOGGS and Mr. FORD will be accompanied by their wives and respective staff aides for the two week trip.

DE 161-1355

WNA:fln:MOS - 3

Mr. FORD stated this procedure was "within the law". Mr. FORD also advised he had known LOVRE since both entered Congress as GOP Freshmen in 1949.

LOVRE advised "The reason I did this is because we came to Congress together. He is a friend. I was going to raise some money for him. He didn't know a damn thing about it. He didn't want to know either," LOVRE told newsmen.

Mr. FORD stated, "LOVRE asked me one time last spring could he help in any way? I said if he wanted, do it on your own."

The so-called "D.C. Committee" is a popular device among many incumbent Senators and Congressmen to raise money from special interest groups in Washington without having to list **the contributions**.

Many of the D.C. **Committees** collect their funds by sponsoring dinners or receptions for their candidate at up to \$100.00 per ticket; however, Mr. FORD never had such a reception. "I don't believe in receptions," said Mr. FORD.

October 19, 1971 - Mr. FORD urges J. EDGAR HOOVER to retire at age 77, stating all government employees should retire on or before their 70th birthday.

April 18, 1972 - Mr. FORD continues to back United States bombing of North Vietnam. Mr. FORD advised "North Vietnam has invaded scores of miles across the demilitarized zone in violation of the bombing halt of 1968; therefore, these actions must be responded to with air and sea power to insure the safety of American troops presently being withdrawn."

DE 161-1355  
WNA:fln:MOS - 2

April 10, 1969 - Grand Rapids to receive 1.7 million dollars for house renovation due mainly to Mr. FORD's efforts. This grant was received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to renovate an area including Grand Rapids first public housing project. Mr. FORD worked closely with local and Federal authorities to win HUD approval.

February 23, 1970 - Mr. FORD backs "Chicago 7" convictions. After the verdict was announced, Mr. FORD stated, "This is a clear warning to all who are abusing the right of free speech that they must obey the law or go to jail." Mr. FORD concluded by stating, "Freedom in the United States is under attack; but it is not under attack by the establishment. It is under attack by those who would plunge this nation into anarchy and those who mistake license for liberty."

January 7, 1971 - Mr. FORD and his family were dinner guests of President NIXON at the Western White House.

January 21, 1971 - Mr. FORD began fourth term as GOP leader.

February 12, 1971 - Mr. FORD received campaign funds from trucking lobbyist. HAROLD O. LOVRE, a lobbyist for the American Trucking Association, who is a former South Dakota Congressman, headed the "D.C. Committee for GERALD R. FORD", which, according to records in Michigan, pumped \$4,500.00 into campaign funds for Mr. FORD in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Under loopholes in the law, fund-raising clubs set up in the nation's capitol do not have to file public reports identifying donors.

It was also disclosed Mr. FORD failed to report \$11,500.00 in donations from stockbrokers, an oilman, a union club, bankers and doctors last fall. The money was routed from the FORD election committee to the GOP Headquarters in Grand Rapids before roughly the same amount was fed back to pay campaign debts.



DE 161-1355  
WNA/fln/pjw -1

A review of the newspaper morgue, "Grand Rapids Press", Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973, by SA [ ] reflected all articles published from 1968 to the present pertaining to GERALD R. FORD are presently on file in the morgue. No articles prior to 1968 are included in the records of the morgue.

Articles included herein are representative of all articles in the morgue, which are of national interest and also provide an insight into the local political life of appointee.

January 24, 1968 - Mr. FORD named Republican of the Year by the Womens National Republican Club.

February 26, 1968 - Mr. FORD resigned as Director of the Old Kent Bank and Trust Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, due to his busy schedule in Washington, D.C. The Old Kent Bank and Trust Company is one of the oldest and most powerful banking institutions in the State of Michigan. In submitting his resignation, Mr. FORD advised he wanted it clearly understood there would be no conflict of interests on his part as he would sever all connections with private business while in public office.

March 22, 1968 - Mr. FORD awarded an honorable doctorate degree from American International College. Administrator JOHN F. HINES, American International College presented Mr. FORD with the degree noting Mr. FORD's 20 years of Congressional service to the people of Michigan and the nation.

July 19, 1968 - Mr. FORD supported banning of mail order sales of rifles, shotguns and ammunition. This bill would ban sales of rifles, shotguns and ammunition to all individuals under 18 years of age. Mr. FORD advised he believes it is time to pass basic gun control legislation to which future amendments can be added.

January 10, 1969 - Mr. FORD listed as one of five individuals named in a libel suit filed by MARGUERITA OSWALD, mother of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, due to his being a member of the Warren Commission and his writing concerning the probe of the KENNEDY assassination. The OSWALD suit asserted some of the publications exposed her to "hatred, contempt and ridicule".

DE 161-1355

WE:kc - 1

NEWS MEDIA

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted], at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

BOYD CONRAD, News Director, Great Lakes Broadcasting Corporation, 210 Federal Square Building, advised that Grand Rapids broadcasting operates radio station WMAX, a general entertainment and news station in the West Michigan area. CONRAD stated that he knows GERALD FORD on a professional basis and has followed his activities throughout the 5th Congressional District over the last five years. He considers Mr. FORD to be a strong partisan, politician but an independent thinker.

CONRAD described Mr. FORD as being very meticulous, and attentive to detail, and he always follows through on even the most minor projects he undertakes. Mr. FORD has been a great help to the media when requested to furnish information of a research nature through Government sources even if this information was not the most beneficial to him.

CONRAD specifically stated that such things as Mr. FORD's voting record and completed copies of bills in Congress were examples of this research material. He added that Mr. FORD always seems to remember even the "little guy". He has always been very cooperative with the media and has never known him to show anger or resentment because he may have been mistreated by any segment of the news media. CONRAD said that his dealings with Mr. FORD have mainly been in the nature of conducting interviews with him, and he has always been a gentleman and most cooperative. He has always known Mr. FORD to be of the highest character and moral standards. He also associates with persons of these high standards.

CONRAD stated that Mr. FORD is possibly one of the most patriotic and loyal Americans he knows. CONRAD concluded by stating that he highly recommends him for the position of Vice President and believes that President NIXON has made an extremely wise choice in choosing him for that office.

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Greenville, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

DALE STAFFORD, Owner and Publisher of the Greenville Daily News, was contacted and advised that he met appointee approximately 40 years ago, when he was a sports editor for the Detroit Free Press and appointee was a football player for the University of Michigan. STAFFORD advised that upon first meeting appointee 40 years ago, appointee left him with the impression of being a most dedicated and sincere person and that to this day, his opinion of appointee has not changed in the least.

STAFFORD advised that throughout the years, appointee has been an individual of the highest character and reputation. STAFFORD stated that appointee's morals are above reproach and that his associates are of the highest caliber. STAFFORD stated that appointee is a loyal American citizen who believes whole-heartedly in the constitutional rights of each individual in his congressional district and the United States of America. STAFFORD stated that to the best of his knowledge, he has never heard of any **derogatory** information that would taint the character or reputation of appointee.

STAFFORD stated that he is positive that appointee would never run any campaign that was not completely honest, clean and above board. STAFFORD stated that appointee has always conducted himself in the most professional manner.

STAFFORD stated that in his opinion, appointee was an outstanding selection for **Vice President** of the United States and that he would have most highly recommended appointee for that position.

DE 161-1355  
WNA/cb/pjw -1

NEWS MEDIA

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]:

On October 17, 1973, BRUCE GLYCADGIS, Operations Manager, WJEF Radio, 280 Ann, Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known Mr. FORD for 28 years on a personal and professional basis. He stated Mr. FORD was his attorney shortly after he, GLYCADGIS, moved to Grand Rapids 28 years ago. He said Mr. FORD handled legal affairs fairly promptly with no confusion. He advised the appointee is a straightforward individual concerned with the plight of the working class and minority groups, working many hours on legislation regarding new and better civil rights amendments. He advised Mr. FORD and he are members of the same Masonic Lodge and all of Mr. FORD's associates are loyal American citizens. He advised numerous individuals in the past have opposed the appointee in the political arena; however, no derogatory information regarding the appointee's character or conduct has ever been brought to his attention. GLYCADGIS concluded he would highly recommend GERALD R. FORD for Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
WNA/jas - 1

NEWS MEDIA

NINA E. BABCOCK, former Owner and Editor, Cedar Springs Clipper Newspaper, Cedar Springs, provided the following information:

Miss BABCOCK advised she has known the FORD family for 30 years and has been personal friends of GERALD R. FORD since 1948, when she was one of several individuals who persuaded Mr. FORD to run for election to Congress. Since that time Mr. FORD has always stopped by to visit BABCOCK whenever he visits Cedar Springs. It is Miss BABCOCK's opinion that Mr. FORD's loyalty, character and integrity are absolutely unblemished and that he has never been involved in any derogatory incidents or activities. The appointee is from a middle class family that enjoys an excellent reputation in the community. Mr. FORD strongly believes in civil rights legislation to improve conditions for all men. It is Miss BABCOCK's opinion that GERALD FORD is an excellent choice for Vice President as he represents the very best of American citizenship and has proved himself to be a very able representative of his constituents during the past 25 years.

NEWS MEDIA

DE 161-1355  
EHH/lim - 1

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [redacted] at Ionia, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

Mr. WILLIAM ABSHIRE, Acting Superintendent,  
Michigan Training Unit, Ionia, Michigan, advised he  
has never met Mr. GERALD R. FORD personally and has  
only heard of him through his reputation as a  
Congressman representing Michigan.

Mr. ABSHIRE stated he did not feel qualified  
to comment on Mr. FORD personally. Mr. ABSHIRE stated  
he has heard many personal comments from fellow citizens  
and co-workers in the Ionia area and has heard nothing  
but praise for Mr. FORD's ability as a Congressman  
representing the State of Michigan.

DE 161-1355  
OJZ/dmw - 1

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], at Ionia County, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

Mr. EDWARD COLBERT, Warden, Michigan Reformatory  
at Ionia, advised that he has had no personal contact with  
Mr. GERALD FORD but from what he has read and heard believes  
him to be an excellent choice for Vice President.

Mr. COLBERT advised that he could think of no  
derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD.



DE 161-1355  
EHH/pjf/lim - 1

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Ionia,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7C

Mr. FRANK LANCE, [ ], Ionia,  
Michigan, Chief of Police, advised he has never met  
Mr. GERALD R. FORD personally. Mr. LANCE is aware  
of Mr. FORD's reputation throughout the Ionia community,  
and he feels Mr. FORD to be an outstanding Congressman  
for the State of Michigan. Mr. LANCE stated Mr. FORD  
seems to have a genuine interest in serving the people  
in the State of Michigan, and he has never heard anyone  
make any negative statements concerning Mr. FORD. Mr.  
LANCE expressed his belief that Mr. FORD would make an  
excellent Vice President of the United States.

EHH:psn - 1  
DE 161-1355

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] at Ionia, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

Lieutenant THOMAS J. HEBERT, Post Commander, Michigan State Police Post, Ionia, Michigan, advised he has never met Mr. GERALD R. FORD but is aware that he enjoys a highly favorable reputation in the Ionia area.

Mr. HEBERT advised that citizens in the Ionia area regard Mr. FORD as a man with the highest morals and personal integrity and feels that Mr. FORD would make an excellent Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
BEY:cgp/jbm - 1

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

JOHN PLANTS, Director, Department of State Police, East Lansing, Michigan, advised he does not know Congressman GERALD FORD personally although he has met him on one or two occasions. He stated the only thing regarding Mr. FORD that he has knowledge of is Mr. FORD's Congressional record and the publicity that Mr. FORD has received over the years. Based on this he is of the opinion that Mr. FORD is an honest man. He stated he has absolutely no reservations concerning Mr. FORD; however, because of his limited knowledge, he would reserve any comments or recommendations.

Director PLANTS stated he has had contact with GERALD FORD's brother, THOMAS FORD, **who served on** the Appropriation Committee for the State Police. **He stated Mr. THOMAS FORD has always acted in a professional manner and he has no reservations regarding him.**

DE 161-1355  
LJM/srd - 1

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Greenville,  
Michigan:

JERALD E. SAGE, Chief of Police, Greenville, was interviewed at the police station in Greenville. SAGE has known GERALD FORD for approximately 25 years, strictly on a professional type basis. Mr. FORD frequently attended law enforcement meetings and often spoke at various functions in Greenville. SAGE does not know Mr. FORD socially.

SAGE regards Mr. FORD as having the highest character, reputation, and morals of anyone he has known. He considers him a loyal American citizen and has never known Mr. FORD to make any derogatory remarks regarding a minority group. SAGE was unaware of any financial dealings which had taken place with Mr. FORD and any member of the Greenville community.

SAGE stated he has never heard derogatory remarks concerning Mr. FORD and believes he would competently serve the people of the United States as Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
CAP:dkd - 1

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

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b7c

JAMES OTTO TOOHEY, 250 Walter, SE, Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD FORD since 1949.  
At that time, TOOHEY was a Kent County Deputy Sheriff.

TOOHEY stated that during the second World War,  
the Grand Rapids Civil Defense Unit was established. The  
unit later became known as the Kent County Sheriff's Re-  
serve. TOOHEY did not know whether appointee was as-  
sociated with the Civil Defense Unit, but advised that he  
may have been made an honorary member.

TOOHEY advised that appointee's character is above  
reproach as are his morals and integrity. TOOHEY does not  
know appointee's civil rights views or any of his associates,  
but considers the appointee to be loyal to the United States  
and well qualified for the job of Vice President.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

HARRY FABER, [ ], Grand Rapids, advised he is the Safety and Security Officer at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. FABER has held this position for the past five years. Prior to his appointment at Calvin College, FABER was employed for 28 years with the Grand Rapids Police Department. FABER retired from the Police Department as an inspector in 1968. **From 1963 through 1967, FABER was the Executive Director of the Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth.** This organization was sponsored by the Grand Rapids Police Department and "Grand Rapids Press" for the purpose of aiding underprivileged youths.

FABER has known GERALD FORD since 1953. He has worked in Mr. FORD's campaigns over the past 20 years. He stated, however, that his relationship with Mr. FORD is not a close relationship and that he doubts if Mr. FORD knows him personally. FABER stated that as an active Republican and as a former police officer in the City of Grand Rapids, he has been a keen observer of the political scene in Grand Rapids and Kent County over the past 20 years. He regards Mr. FORD as an extremely able and honest public official. He has been impressed with Mr. FORD's unyielding dedication to his constituency, the Fifth Congressional District. He has on occasion contacted the Congressman's office in Washington, D.C., on matters of local and national interest, and he has been impressed by Mr. FORD's promptness in replying to such inquiries. FABER knows of no unfavorable information regarding Mr. FORD with respect to his morals, associates or loyalty to the United States.

FABER stated that he highly recommends Mr. FORD for appointment to the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
WTJ/bjk - 1

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

Captain PAT DALEY, East Grand Rapids Police Department, advised that he has been employed with that department since August 1, 1952.

He has been in charge of the records of that department for the last nine years and at no time did information come to his attention concerning the mother of GERALD R. FORD, JR. or her alleged arrest on narcotics matters by the East Grand Rapids Police Department seven to eight years ago.

In addition, Captain DALEY advised that during his employment with that department, he has never, under any circumstances, observed the "fixing" of police records for political or personal reasons.

DE 161-1355  
WNA/emp - 1

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] at Sparta, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

ROBERT APEL, Chief of Police, Sparta, Michigan, advised he has known GERALD FORD for approximately five years. He usually talks with Mr. FORD when he visits Sparta as APEL is in charge of any security arrangements Mr. FORD might require. Mr. FORD has always been surrounded by well-educated above average citizens of the community. Mr. FORD's loyalty, character, morals and personal life are all above reproach. Mr. FORD has worked in favor of civil rights legislation in the past and it is APEL's opinion he will continue to do so in the future. APEL could furnish no information of a derogatory nature pertaining to GERALD R. FORD.

APEL closed by stating Mr. FORD is an excellent choice for Vice President.



DE 161-1355  
CAP/ald - 1

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL

b6  
b7c

The following investigation was conducted on October 19, 1973, by SA [ ] at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

ALFRED F. RENIS, 667 Myrtle, Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he is a retired lieutenant from the Grand Rapids Police Department and that he has known Mr. GERALD R. FORD since 1941.

During 1941 and 1942, Mr. FORD attended meetings of the Grand Rapids Civil Defense Unit and, in 1942, he applied for membership and was admitted. RENIS stated that shortly after Mr. FORD joined the Unit, he joined the military and left Grand Rapids. While he was associated with the Unit, he acted as a block warden and participated in activities held by the Unit such as practice black-outs and **ready** patrols. RENIS' job was to receive complaints made by the block wardens and investigate them. RENIS stated that membership in the Unit was voluntary and that Mr. FORD was very conscientious at his job, and he never made any enemies. Mr. FORD had a knack of getting the job done without offending anyone.

RENIS advised that Mr. FORD's morals, character, loyalty to his country, integrity and devotion to duty are beyond reproach. RENIS could not provide information concerning Mr. FORD's family or associates but stated that he recommends Mr. FORD for Vice President of the United States.

LAW ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICIALS

DE 161-1355  
WE/srd - 1

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF  
THE MINORITY GROUPS

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

CHESTER EAGLEMAN, [redacted] that he is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Grand Rapids Intertribal Council, which is an American Indian Cultural Organization comprised of about 170 families of American Indian descent. EAGLEMAN advised that the Intertribal Council was formed approximately five years ago for the purpose of educating the Grand Rapids community about the problems American Indians have in this area and also to provide a cultural, ethnic, and historical, program for American Indians in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area.

EAGLEMAN stated that he is only vaguely acquainted with GERALD FORD but he considers him to be sensitive to community needs particularly among minority groups such as the American Indians. EAGLEMAN believes that Mr. GERALD FORD would listen to the problems of all minorities and that he would be able to work out these problems for the good of most people. EAGLEMAN believes that Mr. FORD is a good choice for Vice President. He remarked that he considered him to be highly qualified for this position due to GERALD FORD's extensive background in national politics during the last quarter century.

EAGLEMAN stated that although it is apparent to him that GERALD FORD is a strong NIXON supporter, he believes that Mr. FORD is still somewhat independent in making choices which affect the people of the United States. EAGLEMAN stated that Mr. FORD enjoys a very good reputation in Western Michigan, and that he knows him to be of the highest character. He added that he associates with individuals of high character also. EAGLEMAN stated that he has no question as to Mr. FORD's loyalty to the United States adding he is a strong supporter of Democratic principles.

EAGLEMAN concluded stating that he highly recommends Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
LJM/tsd - 1

PROMINENT MEMBER OF MINORITY GROUPS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Grand  
Rapids, Michigan:

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ROY S. ROBERTS, Labor Relations Manager, Lear  
Siegler, Incorporated, 4141 Eastern Avenue, Southeast, Grand  
Rapids, home address [redacted] was interviewed  
at [redacted] Apartment [redacted] telephone  
number [redacted]

ROBERTS stated he was the president of the  
Grand Rapids segment of the National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), from 1970 through  
1972. ROBERTS has known GERALD FORD for approximately 12  
years inasmuch as he has been active in various city projects  
and politics. The majority of his activities involved the  
black population and efforts to improve programs for these  
people. It was through these endeavors that he became  
associated with GERALD FORD.

ROBERTS described FORD as a diligent and hard-  
working individual. FORD is very competent in his work  
and responds to the people promptly. ROBERTS felt FORD  
had dealt with a great number of people and a large cross  
section of the populous.

ROBERTS described FORD as a middle-of-the-road  
conservative. He was not a champion of Civil Rights per  
se and had never hindered any legislation or programs  
beneficial to blacks; however, ROBERTS could recall no  
instance when FORD initiated a program intended for blacks.

ROBERTS stated that FORD was a very loyal American  
and would never conduct any business to jeopardize his  
position. FORD took his job very seriously and was a  
deliberate, sincere, politician whose career had ploddingly  
progressed through hard work. He stated FORD's goal in  
life is to go down in history as a "good guy". ROBERTS  
believed FORD would be a good Vice-President of the United  
States and had nothing derogatory concerning FORD.

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE MINORITY GROUPS

LABOR

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

KEITH J. CLINTON of [ ] Southeast, Grand Rapids, telephone number [ ], was interviewed by SA [ ] at a labor management conference at Aquinas College on October 17, 1973. CLINTON is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Southwest Michigan Carpenters District Council, 1739 Chicago Drive, Southwest, Grand Rapids. CLINTON has been associated with the Carpenters District Council for the past 20 years. CLINTON had first met appointee GERALD FORD in 1953. His contacts with Mr. FORD since 1953 to the present date have been on matters relating to union legislation and labor matters. CLINTON's contacts with Mr. FORD were conducted for the most part in the office of appointee FORD in Washington, D.C. CLINTON in addition has made frequent communications to the office of appointee FORD from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

CLINTON advised that in all of his dealings with appointee FORD, Mr. FORD has acted with the highest integrity and honesty. CLINTON regards his performance as a Congressman as one without reproach. CLINTON advised Mr. FORD responded to all inquiries by CLINTON on labor matters.

CLINTON stated that he cannot recall an instance where he did not receive a reply from appointee FORD. CLINTON stated that to the best of his knowledge, appointee FORD's character, morals, and loyalty are without question. He is unfamiliar with Mr. FORD's position with respects to civil rights.

CLINTON concluded that he knows of no derogatory information in appointee FORD's background. He stated that Mr. FORD possesses the qualifications to hold a high political office.

TSW/kab/psn - 1  
DE 161-1355

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UNITED AUTO WORKERS

The following investigation was conducted on October 18, 1973, by SAs [ ] and [ ].

DOUGLAS A. FRASER, Vice President, United Auto Workers (UAW), business address 8000 East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan, was contacted at UAW Headquarters, Chrysler Corporation, Highland Park, Michigan.

FRASER advised that he has been acquainted with appointee Mr. GERALD R. FORD, since 1948, and has met the appointee on several occasions. FRASER stated that he has a casual relationship with the appointee through political contact and on occasions when the UAW has requested him to speak before union functions.

FRASER advised he believes the appointee to be an individual of high integrity, strong loyalty, and a patriotic American and he knows of no derogatory information regarding the appointee's character, associates, and morals.

FRASER also advised that although his union is generally opposed to the political beliefs of the appointee, he has always found Mr. FORD to be a highly principled individual who would cause no embarrassment to the United States of America in his position as Vice President and his previous position as Republican leader in the House of Representatives.

DE 161-1355  
JDG/pjf - 1

LABOR OFFICIALS

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 17, 1973, at Grandville, Michigan:

JOHN W. VOSMA, President of United Auto Workers, Local 277, and Quality Control Engineer for Reynolds Metals Company, 1710 Porter S.W., Grand Rapids, was contacted at his residence, [ ], Grandville, Michigan, telephone number [ ].

Mr. VOSMA advised that he has known Vice-Presidential appointee, GERALD R. FORD, for the past 25 years. He stated that the association with FORD has been of a business nature in relation to his position as an official of a local United Auto Workers (UAW). He advised that during this association, he has maintained the highest regard for Mr. FORD's ability as a political figure and as an attorney.

Mr. VOSMA advised he considers Mr. FORD to have the highest degree of moral character and that in his opinion, Mr. FORD has an unquestionable loyalty towards the United States. He advised that Mr. FORD has represented his constituents successfully for the past 25 years and has provided the district with many benefits through his representation in Congress.

Mr. VOSMA stated that he is not familiar with Mr. FORD's attitude towards civil rights matters and to his knowledge, Mr. FORD is not an extremist in any matters.

Mr. VOSMA stated that he has never heard any derogatory comments regarding Mr. FORD's morals or associates. Mr. VOSMA stated that he would not hesitate to recommend Mr. FORD for the office of Vice-President of the United States.



WJM:cgp -1  
DE 161-1355

LABOR LEADERS

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 17,  
1973:

SIMON CHAPPLE, Legislative Representative,  
Michigan AFL-CIO, Lansing, Michigan, advised that although  
he is not personally acquainted with the appointee, GERALD  
R. FORD, he has never heard any derogatory information  
concerning him. Mr. CHAPPLE advised that the appointee  
enjoys an excellent reputation and feels Mr. FORD is the best  
choice for the position. Mr. CHAPPLE advised that he knew of  
no reason for Mr. FORD not to be appointed Vice-President.

DE 161-1355  
WJM/mpr:clc - 1

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LABOR LEADERS

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
 at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

RICHARD SANDBORN, President, UAW, Local 602, Grand Rapids, advised his local encompasses the 5th District of Michigan, where the appointee is the elected representative. Mr. SANDBORN stated he does not agree with the appointee's voting record; however, considers him qualified for the position of Vice President. Mr. SANDBORN stated he has never heard of any derogatory comments regarding the appointee, adding that the appointee's trustworthiness and integrity are above reproach.

DE 161-1355  
FHW:nar/lk - 1

LABOR LEADERS

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The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

Mr. KENNETH J. BARENDSE, Business Representative, Operating Engineers AFL-CIO, Local Union number 324, 3291 Division Avenue, South Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he does not know Mr. GERALD FORD. He stated the only thing he knows about Mr. FORD is what he has read and heard over the radio and television and therefore does not feel qualified one way or another to recommend him for the position of Vice President of the United States. Mr. BARENDSE did state that he has never heard anything derogatory concerning Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
AGJ:pap/dkd - 1

LABOR LEADERS

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On October 17, 1973, the following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

ADELBART J. MINER, Business Agent for the Glaziers and Glass Workers Union Local 584 and Secretary Treasurer of the Builders Trade Union, 1064 Race Street, was contacted and advised that he has been a business associate of GERALD FORD for approximately 24 years.

MINER advised that he has had a lot of contact over the years with Mr. FORD, attempting to get Mr. FORD to push labor legislation in Congress. MINER stated that on every occasion that he has gone to Mr. FORD's office in Washington, D. C., he has always been treated well by Mr. FORD and his staff.

MINER advised that he strongly disagrees with Mr. FORD's political views, but that he believes that Mr. FORD is a very honest politician.

MINER advised that Mr. FORD is a man of the highest character and reputation and is a loyal American citizen of the highest moral standards.

MINER advised that one of the things he likes best about GERALD FORD is that he has always helped the veterans in the Grand Rapids area when they needed assistance.

MINER advised that never to his knowledge, has he or any other labor leader in the Grand Rapids area ever written Mr. FORD's office a letter without receiving a prompt reply.

MINER advised that in his opinion, Mr. FORD's only personal drawback is that he is a follower and not a leader.

MINER advised due to their strong political differences he could not recommend GERALD FORD for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
KSB/dag - 1

LABOR LEADERS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

LEONARD B. ZIMMERMAN, [ ]  
Detroit, Michigan, telephone number [ ], was  
interviewed by SA [ ] at a labor management  
conference at Aquinas College on October 17, 1973.  
ZIMMERMAN is a general representative for the United Brotherhood  
of Carpenters and Joiners of America. ZIMMERMAN has  
known appointee FORD since 1947. He first met Mr. FORD  
through ZIMMERMAN's association with the Kent County chapter  
of the United Veteran's Council.

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ZIMMERMAN worked in appointee FORD's campaign  
in 1948. During the past 25 years, ZIMMERMAN has attended  
conferences in Washington under the sponsorship of the  
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.  
At these occasions he has attended meetings at the office  
of appointee FORD. He has on frequent occasions discussed with  
appointee FORD matters relating to labor legislation and  
veterans' affairs.

ZIMMERMAN describes his relationship with appointee  
FORD as a business relationship. He stated that while  
he differs with political philosophy with appointee FORD  
he considers him to be a public servant with the highest  
of integrity. He described him as a sincere, honest and  
loyal public servant.

ZIMMERMAN knows of no derogatory information  
concerning appointee FORD.

DE 161-1355  
WLB/cja - 1

LABOR LEADERS

The following investigation was conducted by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] on October 13, 1973, at Detroit, Michigan:

Mr. RUSSELL LEACH, National Director of UAW Community Action Program (UAW-CAP), 8000 East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 926-5335, advised he has come in contact with GERALD FORD on several occasions at political meetings or conferences. However, he does not know Mr. FORD personally. He has no reason to question the character, morals, associates or loyalty of Mr. FORD, and has never heard of him being involved in any questionable activities.

DE 161-1355  
BJM/esj/emv - 1

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LABOR LEADERS

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

STANLEY ARNOLD, Secretary-Treasurer, Michigan State Building and Trades Council, Lansing, Michigan, advised he has been acquainted with the appointee through business committees and is of the opinion that the appointee is an outstanding selection for the position of Vice President. Mr. ARNOLD stated the appointee's reputation and integrity are above reproach. Mr. ARNOLD further stated that he would highly recommend the appointee for the position of Vice President.

LLOYD CAIN, International Representative, United Auto Workers (UAW), Lansing, advised that although he does not agree with the appointee's voting record, he feels the appointee is an excellent choice for the position of Vice President. CAIN stated appointee's integrity is above reproach, adding he has never heard of any derogatory comments regarding the appointee.

JAMES H. RAMSEY, UAW, Lansing, advised appointee's honesty and integrity are unquestionable. Mr. RAMSEY stated that he has never heard of any derogatory information or rumors regarding the appointee and advised he thought the appointee was an excellent choice for the Vice Presidency and hoped for a speedy Congressional approval.

ALBERT DUTY, International Representative, UAW, Lansing, advised he is not acquainted with appointee. Mr. DUTY stated he was not in agreement with the appointee's voting record; however, he thought he was an excellent choice for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
WJM/clc/pjw -1

LABOR LEADERS

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 16,  
1973:

EUGENE R. BEYER, Representative, Region 7, Allied Industrial Workers, AFL-CIO, Lansing, advised he does not know the appointee personally; however, he has never heard any derogatory comments made against appointee. BEYER advised his political views differ from those of appointee, but he feels the appointee is an excellent selection for the Office of Vice President. He stated that WILLIAM MARSHALL, President, Michigan State AFL-CIO; WALTER CAMPBELL, Secretary-Treasurer, Michigan State AFL-CIO; WILLIAM BRAMAN, President, Greater Lansing AFL-CIO; and ROBERT D. BRENNER, AFL-CIO, would have had personal contact with the appointee and would be able to furnish additional information regarding him.

JAMES A. MOWRY, Office Manager, AFL-CIO, Lansing, Michigan, advised he does not know the appointee personally; however, he added the appointee has an excellent reputation for honesty and integrity. MOWRY advised that he differs in the political views of the appointee; however, considers the appointee an excellent selection for the position of Vice President of the United States. MOWRY advised he knew of no derogatory information regarding the appointee.



LABOR LEADERS

DE 161-1355  
BEY:js - 1

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at East Lansing, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

TRUMAN MORRISON, Pastor, Edgewood United Church, 469 North Hagadorn Road, advised he does not know appointee, GERALD R. FORD, personally and has had no direct dealings with appointee. He stated the only question he has concerning appointee is an article that appeared in the press concerning campaign contributions and he would certainly like to see this thoroughly resolved. He stated he has no specifics concerning any allegations that may have been made and would not be able to comment further.

He stated he feels appointee has not displayed any leadership ability and he has never been enthusiastic about appointee and would reserve the right **not to make any** recommendation regarding him.

DE 161-1355  
WTH/rlg:cb - 1

RELIGIOUS LEADERS

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

DONALD CAREY, Retired Rector of Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, 1430 Edgewood Street, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed and stated that he knows GERALD FORD and has been acquainted with him for approximately 35 years. He formerly served as the Rector of the church that Mr. FORD now attends. He advised that he performed the ceremony at Mr. and Mrs. FORD's wedding. He advised that Mrs. FORD was divorced prior to her marriage to Mr. FORD. He noted that Mr. FORD was never married prior to his present marriage. He stated that Mr. FORD enjoys an excellent reputation and he is a man of high moral character. He further advised that Mr. FORD's associates are extremely reputable people and that Mr. FORD's loyalty to the United States is beyond question. He advised that Mr. FORD's civil rights views are humanitarian and that he could not think of anything derogatory that he has ever heard or known regarding Mr. FORD. He advised that as far as he knows, Mr. FORD is a very competent attorney and he stated that Mr. FORD would be highly qualified for the position of Vice President. He further noted that he would highly recommend Mr. FORD for this position.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS

139

DE 161-1355

PWH/pap - 1

PAST POLITICAL OPPONENT

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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THOMAS F. BLACKWELL, Attorney, 10th Floor, McKay Towers, Grand Rapids, Michigan, residence 445 Bel-Aire Drive, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he was Chairman of the Kent County Democratic Committee from 1970 to 1972, and managed the 1968 and 1970 campaigns of appointee's opponents.

He said that he met the appointee several times and knew him only by reputation. He said he disagreed with the appointee politically, but knew of nothing in his personal behavior or that of any members of his family or associates which would reflect adversely upon his appointment. He said he considered appointee's views on civil rights to be conservative, but he did not consider him to be bigoted in any way.

He said that he recalled two contributions from out of state to the appointee's past campaigns. These were from the American Dairyman's Association out of Houston, Texas, and the Republican Congressional National Campaign Committee out of Washington. He said these would be a matter of public record at the Secretary of State's Office at Lansing or the County Clerk's Office in Grand Rapids.

POLITICAL OPPONENTS

DE 161-1355  
FLF/js:clc - 2

JIM MC NEELY  
4722 Broadway  
Kansas City, Missouri  
office telephone 816 531-8104  
residence telephone

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On October 17, 1973, ZOLTON FERENCY, former Democratic Party of Michigan Chairman, 1963 to 1968, currently Professor, Criminal Justice School, Room 401-A, R. E. Olds Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, furnished the following information:

FERENCY stated he has been acquainted with appointee, GERALD R. FORD, since 1961, strictly on a political basis. He advised that although he is not acquainted with Mr. FORD on a social or personal basis, he seems to be a man of high morals, integrity and loyalty. FERENCY stated, however, that in his opinion Mr. FORD is not quick-witted and is somewhat dull intellectually. He stated he has no objection to Mr. FORD being Vice President, but would not like to see him as President of the United States.

FERENCY stated he has heard rumors that Mr. FORD obtained psychiatric consultation, but stated these rumors were vague and that he could not object to anyone seeking psychiatric consultation. FERENCY stated that from the contacts he has had with Mr. FORD, he did not get the impression that he needed psychiatric or psychological consultation.



DE 161-1355  
FLF/js/pjw -1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF MICHIGAN CHAIRMEN

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ]:

On October 15, 1973, MAURY WINTERGARD, current Chairman, Democratic Party of Michigan, headquarters 900 West Michigan, Lansing, Michigan, advised as follows:

WINTERGARD advised he has been Democratic Chairman since 1972, and is not acquainted with appointee GERALD R. FORD, at all; however, he stated he has never heard anything derogatory concerning him.

WINTERGARD advised that A. ROBERT KLEINER, 5th District, Democratic Party Chairman, Grand Rapids, Michigan, would likely be able to furnish information concerning FORD.

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WINTERGARD furnished the following persons as former Chairmen of the Democratic Party of Michigan:

NEIL STAEBLER  
408 Wolverine Boulevard  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Office telephone: 313 662-4406  
Residence telephone: 313 668-7057  
(State Chairman approximately 1948-1962)

ZOLTON FERENCY  
K-P Building  
East Lansing, Michigan  
Office telephone: 517 332-3541  
Residence telephone: [ ]

SANDER M. LEVIN  
1800 First National Building  
Detroit, Michigan  
Office telephone: 313 961-8380  
Residence telephone [ ]

DE 161-1355  
LWL/pjf/tsd - 1

DEMOCRATIC PUBLIC OFFICIALS

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Pontiac, Michigan:

BERNARD B. WINOGRAD, 140 Alice, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, telephone number [redacted] who is employed as the Executive Director of the Oakland County, Michigan, Democratic Party, was interviewed at Oakland County Democratic Headquarters, 17000 South Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Michigan, telephone number 334-0971, and advised he had no personal or direct knowledge of appointee FORD and that any information he had concerning him has been obtained from the press and television media.

WINOGRAD advised he has no knowledge of GERALD FORD's civil rights views, financial background or qualifications as an attorney.

WINOGRAD stated he has not heard any information of a derogatory nature regarding the appointee's character, associates, reputation, loyalty, or moral character. WINOGRAD concluded by saying that he would recommend Mr. FORD for a position of trust and responsibility with the United States Government, but qualified his recommendation by stating he cannot highly recommend any "Republican" in view of the fact that he is a Democrat and opposed generally to a Republican administration.

LWL/dlc/psn - 1  
DE 161-1355

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Oak Park, Michigan:

FAE K. WEISS, 24550 Oneida, Oak Park, Michigan, the Vice Chairman of the Oakland County, Michigan, Democratic Party, was interviewed at her residence and provided the following information:

Mrs. WEISS has no personal knowledge of Vice Presidential appointee Mr. FORD and has never met him. Any information she possesses regarding him is derived solely from what she has read in the newspapers and has seen on television.

Mrs. WEISS advised she had nothing unfavorable to say about the appointee's character, reputation, associates, loyalty, or moral character and knew of nothing derogatory concerning him which would disqualify him from serving in a position of trust and responsibility with the United States Government.

Mrs. WEISS stated she knew nothing about the appointee's financial background, views on civil rights, or qualifications as an attorney.

DE 161-1355  
AW/pjw -1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973:

DONALD L. HERMAN, Professor of Political Science, Grand Valley State College, Allendale, Michigan, advised that he was the Kent County Democratic Chairman from 1966-1968. Part of his job was to find candidates to run against the appointee, Mr. FORD. He advised that he does not know anything about the appointee's personal life and reputation, but was quite aware of his political life.

HERMAN advised that he has appeared on television on numerous occasions to criticize the voting behavior of the appointee in Congress. HERMAN states that in his opinion the appointee does not have an understanding of the domestic problems of the poor in this country as indicated by his negative voting record on almost all welfare programs in Congress. HERMAN feels Mr. FORD is geared to white middle class America and the appointee does not understand foreign policy as shown in his support of the Vietnam war and what Mr. HERMAN described as illegal bombings of North Vietnam and Cambodia.

HERMAN advised that the appointee has a very shallow understanding of what goes on in the world and he therefore is critical of his appointment as Vice President. He described the appointee as a great follower.

HERMAN advised that the only questionable act of the appointee he could think of was when the appointee had \$11,500.00 left in his campaign fund in 1970. He advised that the money was given to other candidates in the Republican Party to be used in their efforts to be elected. He advised that, in his opinion, this was very unethical.

DE 161-1355  
CDM/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

Senator DAVID A. ELAWECKI, Democrat, 12th District, advised that he did not know GERALD FORD personally, but had met him on two occasions at political dinners. He stated that he had not heard any information of a derogatory nature about FORD or his family.

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DE 161-1355  
RDC/cgp:mam - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

CLAUD R. ERICKSON, Consultant, Board of Water and Electric Light, 123 West Ottawa, Lansing, advised he has been actively involved in the Republican Party for the past 30 years and at no time was appointee GERALD R. FORD's name referred to in any manner except that of **one who was honest** and above reproach. ERICKSON stated that while he did not know GERALD FORD personally he has personal friends in both United States Senate and Congress and has never heard Mr. FORD's name referred to as being involved in anything unethical. ERICKSON stated he feels Mr. FORD was an excellent choice for Vice President and would recommend Mr. FORD without reservation.

DE 161-1355  
WTH/dmw:clc - 1

BUSSINESMAN

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

CHRISTIAN SONNEVELDT, President, H. Eikenhout and Sons, Inc., 346 Wealthy Street SW, Grand Rapids, advised he is the former mayor of Grand Rapids. He noted that he has been an acquaintance of the appointee both socially and businesswise for approximately 25 years. Mr. SONNEVELDT advised the appointee enjoys an excellent reputation and is of high moral character. He further stated the appointee's associates are outstanding citizens and that the appointee is a very loyal and dedicated American. Mr. SONNEVELDT stated that he feels the appointee is extremely well qualified for the position of Vice President of the United States. He advised that during his 25 years of acquaintance with the appointee, he has never become aware of any derogatory information which would reflect unfavorably upon the appointee.

DE 161-1355  
RAS/cjn - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973, at Grand  
Rapids, Michigan:

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F. WILLIAM MC KEE, [REDACTED] Southeast, Grand Rapids, an attorney with offices located in the Waters Building, Grand Rapids, stated he knows the appointee, GERALD R. FORD, only from a political standpoint. MC KEE's wife, JEAN, opposed appointee for the Fifth Congressional District seat in Michigan during the past two campaigns and the contact with appointee has been limited to that basis.

MC KEE was unaware of any derogatory information regarding appointee and stated as far as he knew the man was "clean" and of excellent character. MC KEE stated he often questioned appointee's judgement in political matters, but could not report any "dirt" that reflected on him personally. MC KEE advised political opponents had attempted to find information of an uncomplimentary nature in the past, but had failed.

MC KEE stated that appointee was mainly a Washington resident as a result of his political career and is seldom seen in the Grand Rapids area except on special occasions. As a result he had not had much contact with Mr. FORD, but from his observations and information coming to his attention he is an honest and upright individual.



DE 161-1355  
FJK/jms - 1

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

DONALD L. BUNTING, Vice President of the American Banking and Trust Company, 1 Washington Square, Lansing, Michigan, advised he has known appointee GERALD R. FORD for nine years. Mr. BUNTING belongs to a group of Republican businessmen which was organized by CHARLES CHAMBERLAIN, United States Representative from the Lansing District. This group was organized for the purpose of spending one day each year in Washington, D. C., during which the group visited various government committees to observe them in action. Mr. FORD and other Michigan Representatives were usually present at the luncheon during which Mr. FORD generally gave a talk.

Mr. BUNTING never associated socially with Mr. FORD and has never considered himself a close personal friend. He has only seen and spoken to Mr. FORD during his early visits to Washington, D. C., with the businessmen's group.

Based on these approximate nine contacts with Mr. FORD, Mr. BUNTING could describe him as only a man of impeccable character with great integrity, honesty, and dedication. He never heard Mr. FORD speak in derogatory terms about the Democrats and often heard him mention how close he cooperated with the Democrats.

Mr. BUNTING also met Mrs. FORD on several occasions during these one day visits to Washington, D. C. He described her as being a very humble and down-to-earth person.

Mr. BUNTING knew nothing unfavorable about Mr. FORD or his wife and recommended him highly for the Vice Presidency of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
HMB/emp - 1

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED], on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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FREDERICK E. VON DENBERG, [REDACTED] Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, President - Ansaco Group, American Seating Company, 901 Broadway, Grand Rapids, advised he has known appointee only briefly, having met him only five or six times in his life. He advised his one lengthy conversation with appointee concerned a problem his company had with foreign competition at which time he sought appointee's counsel. He further stated he was satisfied with appointee as a politician who endeavors to take care of his political constituency. He knows appointee's reputation from the community and feels he is an excellent choice as a Vice Presidential appointee.

DE 161-1355  
JAB/pjw:esj - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

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DAVID D. HUNTING, JR., Vice President, Steelcase, Inc., 1120 36th Street, SE, Grand Rapids, telephone number 241-2681, advised that he has known Congressman FORD personally for approximately twenty-five years. He stated that he and his family are good friends of the FORD family.

HUNTING stated that he has the highest regard for Congressman FORD and that he regards him as a man with great character, loyalty and morals. He stated that he feels Mr. FORD has been an excellent Congressman and that he will make an excellent Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
TSK:jas/njp - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] in Glen Arbor, Michigan, on October  
19, 1973:

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Mr. CHARLES R. SLIGH, JR., 1621 South Shore Drive, Holland, Michigan, President of the Sligh Furniture Company, was contacted at Glen Arbor. He advised that he has known GERALD FORD since the middle 1930's when both became active in Republican politics. He related that from 1952-1956, he had served as Chairman of the Kent County Republican Committee and they became close during this period. SLIGH said that they were not intimate friends but did correspond and contact each other on political matters.

He said during his period of association with Mr. FORD, nothing has ever come to his attention that would reflect unfavorably upon him. He said that Mr. FORD is a man who keeps his word, he is willing to listen to his constituents and has continued to be re-elected to Congress on the basis of his integrity. He would recommend him most highly for the position of Vice-President.

DE 161-1355  
JWA/emp - 1

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BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] at Grand Rapids, Michigan on October 18, 1973:

MERVIL R. RISINGER, Bond Manager, Continental National American Group (CNA), 161 Ottawa Avenue, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone 949-4538, advised that he has been with CNA for ten years and in the insurance business since 1945. RISINGER felt that it would be correct to classify him as the Senior Bond and Surety Manager in the Grand Rapids area.

RISINGER stated that in all his years in the Surety insurance business he has never heard of any derogatory information concerning Congressman GERALD FORD.

RISINGER advised that CNA works with approximately 135 contractors in Michigan and he has never been made aware of any rumors of a derogatory nature concerning Mr. FORD.

RISINGER further stated that he does not know Mr. FORD personally, but has heard that Mr. FORD enjoys a favorable reputation.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

A. PAUL BORDEWYK, Vice President in Charge of Construction, Kamminga and Roodvoets Construction Company, 3435 Broadmoor, Grand Rapids, was interviewed and stated his first personal meeting with appointee, GERALD R. FORD, was approximately one year ago when both attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Good Roads Federation, wherein several individuals gave speeches concerning the problems of road building and the financing of mass transit systems. BORDEWYK stated the conversation amounted to nothing more than small talk and Mr. FORD expressed only the opinion that interstate highway construction already begun should be completed as opposed to stopping construction in order to finance mass transit systems. BORDEWYK stated a second meeting took place at the opening of a new section of Highway 131 and this time they engaged in no conversation other than an acknowledging hello.

BORDEWYK explained that Kamminga and Roodvoets Construction Company has held Michigan State highway contracts for the past 12 years, which have in part been Federally financed and have amounted to several million dollars worth of business to the community. BORDEWYK stated that all contracts held by the company were awarded through competitive bidding and no assistance was afforded by Mr. FORD in the awarding of these contracts. BORDEWYK further stated that neither he, the company nor its owners, ELWIN KAMMINGA and ROGER ROODVOETS, have made any contributions to Mr. FORD for campaign expenses and have not made any other special considerations to Mr. FORD. BORDEWYK also stated that neither Mr. FORD nor any of his staff have ever solicited any funds or favors from the company or any of its purchasers. BORDEWYK advised that his total political

DE 161-1355  
UGS/srd - 2

contributions in the past year amounted to approximately \$100.00, which was not given for the behalf of Mr. FORD but was rather given to the Kent County Republican Committee. BORDEWYK felt assured there was no personal or business relationship between Mr. FORD and the company owners and emphasized this by stating that neither KAMMINGA nor ROODVOETS "had any use for politics" and that it was up to BORDEWYK to get the contracts and they would do the construction.

BORDEWYK's opinion of Mr. FORD was that he was very responsible to his constituency and his endorsement of various pieces of legislation was a reflection of the legislation wanted by his constituency. BORDEWYK knew of no associates of Mr. FORD who could be considered irresponsible or would cast any questionable doubts as to Mr. FORD's qualifications to serve the Vice Presidency. BORDEWYK stated he highly recommended Mr. FORD as an individual who comes with the best of credentials to serve the Vice Presidency. He explained he was not well enough versed on Mr. FORD's views towards civil rights to express an opinion but stipulated that Mr. FORD was responsive to all of his constituency.

BORDEWYK knows of no indiscretions or wrongdoing on the part of Mr. FORD that would prevent him from serving as the Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
JAB/pjf:MOS - 1

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BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

ROBERT C. PEW, President, Steelcase, Incorporated,  
1120 - 36th Street, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
advised that he knows Congressman FORD only as a social  
acquaintance and not as a personal friend.

PEW advised that on one occasion approximately  
five or six years ago, he had an appointment with GERALD R.  
FORD concerning Federal financial aid for hospitals. He  
stated that Mr. FORD introduced a bill into Congress which  
was passed and which made Federal Housing Administration  
financing available for hospitals.

PEW advised that he regarded Mr. FORD as a man  
with great integrity, character, loyalty and morals. He  
stated that he feels that Mr. FORD is an excellent choice  
for the office of Vice President of the United States.

PEW advised that although he did not always agree  
with Mr. FORD's political views, he regarded him as a man  
who held to his beliefs. He stated that Mr. FORD is highly  
thought of among his business associates and in the Grand  
Rapids community.

PEW stated that he is unfamiliar with Mr. FORD's  
viewpoints on civil rights.

PEW knew nothing unfavorable concerning Mr. FORD,  
his family or his associates.



DE 161-1355  
LJM/dkd:cb - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Lowell, Michigan:

CHARLES LIPPERT, Owner of Lippert Pharmacies, Incorporated, 413 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan, was interviewed at his place of business.

LIPPERT has been associated with GERALD R. FORD for approximately eight years in different capacities. As President of the "Showboat", an annual city affair, he has, for the past three years, requested the appointee to attend as a guest. Through these appearances and his Republican party affiliation, LIPPERT has become casually acquainted with the appointee.

LIPPERT considered the appointee's character as excellent and knew of no moral problems. He stated that the appointee is associated with only reputable people and LIPPERT considered him a very loyal American. He has never discussed civil rights with the appointee and has never heard the appointee make any derogatory remarks toward a minority group.

LIPPERT considered the appointee a "middle of the road Republican", not brilliant, but hardworking and a competent leader.

DE 161-1355  
WE/emp - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED], at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

JOSEPH S. OELE, JR., Partner, Hollebaek-Oele Mortuary, 851 Leonard Street, NW, advised that he does not personally know the appointee, GERALD FORD, but that his impression of Mr. FORD is one of an honest, forthright, loyal American Citizen. OELE stated that Mr. FORD has always been a very responsive person to the needs of minority groups within the 5th Congressional District. He added that Mr. FORD gives the distinct impression to everyone who comes in contact with him that he is an individual of the highest character and one who is extremely capable. He believes that Mr. FORD, with his congressional experience, should be an excellent buffer between the executive branch of Government and Congress.

OELE stated that he is of the opinion that GERALD FORD will make an exceptionally good Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
KSB/srd - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

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JOHN G. MOLHOEK, of 2350 Michigan, Northeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number 458-2486, President of Grinnel Row Company, 560 Old Kent Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, said he has known GERALD FORD since 1941. He knew him through his association with Mr. FORD's law firm in Michigan Trust Building in Grand Rapids, Michigan. MOLHOEK stated that his closest association with Mr. FORD came as a result of MOLHOEK's position as Governor of the Michigan District Kiwanis during 1970-1971.

MOLHOEK regards Mr. FORD as an extremely honest and honorable political official. He regards him as an excellent Congressman and is very much in favor of the appointment of Mr. FORD to the position of Vice President.

MOLHOEK advised that he has been most impressed with Mr. FORD's strict attention to his job and his dedication and loyalty to his constituents. MOLHOEK concluded that he is sure Mr. FORD has the loyalty and ability to handle the demands of the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
RVE/tcd 1

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The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
on October 18, 1973:

PETER C. COOK, President and General Manager, Import Motors Limited, 2660 28th Street, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD FORD for approximately 15 years and that their acquaintance has been political in nature. COOK advised that Mr. FORD has maintained extremely high morals, is an honest individual, and a loyal American. He has never known Mr. FORD to be involved in any questionable activities.

COOK advised that Mr. FORD has been very aware of racial problems and has always expressed considerable interest in resolving these problems. Mr. FORD has always represented the entire population not just a selected few.

COOK advised that Mr. FORD was a very conscientious worker and has always kept in touch with his community. He advised that Mr. FORD'S attendance in Congress reflects very few absences during his term of office. He was always on the job, doing the job.

COOK advised that he would highly recommend Mr. FORD for the Vice Presidency since he feels Mr. FORD is an excellent public servant and entirely beyond reproach.

DE 161-1355  
KSB/tcd 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] in Lyons, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

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BERNARD CHARLES RUSSELL, 204 King Street, Lyons, Michigan, was interviewed and stated he is a member of the Village Council of Lyons and he has held that position for four years. He also stated he was the mayor of Lyons in 1951.

Mr. RUSSELL advised he does not know Mr. FORD personally and that he has never met him although Mr. FORD has been in his community from time to time. Mr. RUSSELL stated although he does not know Mr. FORD personally, he has heard of no derogatory information whatsoever that would prevent his confirmation as Vice President. Mr. RUSSELL stated that to his knowledge Mr. FORD has never asked any favors from the elected officers of Lyons and that to his knowledge Mr. FORD has never provided any special assistance to the Village of Lyons.

Mr. RUSSELL could provide no information concerning personal qualifications, financial background, associates, or other views concerning Mr. FORD. Mr. RUSSELL stated he believes Mr. FORD to be an honest individual, who is definitely qualified to be Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
JFM/psn/pjw -1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]:

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On October 17, 1973, Dr. LOUIS BOZIN, Physician, 2003 South Division, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number 241-2716, stated that he was a former chairman of the Kent County Democratic Party from 1952 to 1956. Dr. BOZIN stated that he has known Mr. FORD only casually for approximately twenty years. Dr. BOZIN said he has heard nothing unfavorable regarding Mr. FORD's character, morals, or loyalty. Dr. BOZIN said he has no reason to question Mr. FORD's associates.

Mr. BOZIN related that about four years ago Mr. FORD held a position on the Board of Directors of the Old Kent Bank for about six months when Mr. FORD resigned. Dr. BOZIN said nothing came to his attention which could be considered objectionable regarding Mr. FORD's performance in this capacity.

DE 161-1355  
HMB/kpd -1

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

Mrs. VELMA G. WILSON, [redacted] Grand Rapids, Michigan, Manager-Office Services, American Seating Company, 901 Broadway, Grand Rapids, advised she has known GERALD FORD for approximately five years, but in a very limited manner. She has met with him five or six times, but has never had an opportunity to discuss in great detail any of his philosophy, political or otherwise. She knows him through his reputation in the community to be of high caliber and recommends him for appointment as Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
EHH/pjf - 1

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[ ] The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 18, 1973, at Ionia, Michigan:

Mr. ROBERT KILPATRICK, [ ] Ionia,  
Michigan, Business Manager for the State Mental Hospital, Ionia,  
Michigan, advised he has never met Mr. GERALD FORD personally  
but feels that he would make a good Vice-President.

Mr. KILPATRICK stated Mr. FORD is extremely popular  
in the Ionia area and has a reputation for being very responsive  
to the needs of the community.

Mr. KILPATRICK stated he did not feel qualified to  
comment personally on any of Mr. FORD's personal characteristics  
but he does feel Mr. FORD is the right man for the job.



DE 161-1355  
DAT/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973:

ROBERT A. DORSHIMER, Chief Engineer, Oldsmobile Motor Division, General Motors Corporation, Lansing, Michigan, advised SA [ ] on October 17, 1973, that he is not well acquainted with appointee GERALD R. FORD. He has met him on one occasion, only at a business luncheon. He stated he could not comment, for this reason, on his qualifications to assume the Vice Presidency of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
CDM/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

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Mr. WILLIAM DOYLE was interviewed at the Capitol Building, Lansing, Michigan, and advised his office was located at 107 Hollister Building, Lansing, Michigan, telephone number IV 5-5536. Mr. DOYLE advised that he had been an active lobbyist for chain food stores for approximately 35 years. He stated that he had no personal acquaintance with appointee GERALD R. FORD, but was well aware of his activities and career. He advised that he is aware of no derogatory information concerning FORD or his family and would recommend Mr. FORD based on his knowledge of him.

DE 161-1355  
RMB/kap:clc - 1

BUSINESSMAN

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT M. BLITZER at Sparta, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

CLARENCE H. EMELANDER, owner of Sparta Elevator and Contracting Company, Sparta, advised that he does not know the appointee, GERALD R. FORD, personally and all he knows of Mr. FORD is what he has heard. Everything he has heard about Mr. FORD is favorable and he stated he knows of no derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD's associates.

Mr. EMELANDER advised he is the only supervisory type individual at his company and that all other individuals working there are laborers who did not know Mr. FORD. Mr. EMELANDER advised he could provide no further information regarding the appointee.

DE 161-1355  
JFC/pjw -1

PAINT CONTRACTORS AND MANUFACTURERS

The following investigation was conducted at  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 19, 1973, by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]:

Mr. HOWARD RYSKAMP, President, Michigan Paint Manufacturing Company, 705 Crofton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that his firm has been in the paint manufacturing business for approximately 25 years. He said that he was personally acquainted with appointee's brother, RICHARD FORD, as the Plant Manager for Ford Paint and Varnish Company, Grand Rapids.

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Mr. RYSKAMP stated that in all the years that he has been in business and in those instances where he has made competitive bids wherein RICHARD FORD participated, he has never known of any undue influence or pressure to be exerted by appointee in order to have the contract awarded to RICHARD FORD's company.

Mr. RYSKAMP said that to his knowledge there has never been any allegation of this sort among the paint manufacturing companies in Grand Rapids and he considers the FORD family to be honest and hardworking individuals. Mr. RYSKAMP added that he was not well enough acquainted with Congressman FORD to comment on his background, but stated that he has never known of any unethical business practice committed by RICHARD FORD at any time during RICHARD's managing of the family paint manufacturing business.

DE 161-1355  
RCD/pjw -1

PAINT CONTRACTORS AND MANUFACTURERS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ROBERT C. DU HADWAY on October 19, 1973, at Grand  
Rapids, Michigan:

Mr. WILLIAM HUMBLE, Western Michigan Metro  
Manager, De Voe Paint and Coatings Company, 292 Mart SW,  
advised that he does not know Mr. GERALD FORD. He  
stated De Voe Paint and Coatings Company is a division  
of the Celanese Coatings Company of Louisville, Kentucky,  
and that they produce a small amount of paint in Grand  
Rapids, but the major portion of their business in  
the Western Michigan area is the distribution of paint  
manufactured in Louisville, Kentucky.

He stated he does know RICHARD FORD who is the  
Manager of the Ford Paint and Varnish Company in  
Grand Rapids, Michigan. He stated he believes the Ford  
Paint and Varnish Company was sold around two years ago  
and is now a division of the Standard Paint Company,  
Detroit, Michigan. He stated De Voe Paint Company is  
a competitor of the Ford Paint Company and to the best  
of his knowledge, the Ford Paint Company has never  
received any preferential treatment because of RICHARD  
FORD's brother, the appointee. He stated he has  
dealings with most paint contractors and distributors  
in Western Michigan and he has never heard any mention  
that Ford Paint and Varnish Company received any contracts  
due to political pressure by the appointee. He  
stated the Ford Paint and Varnish Company is a very  
reputable firm and has an outstanding reputation in the  
community. He stated he knows of no derogatory  
information concerning the Ford Paint and Varnish Company  
and he is sure that they conduct their business  
as any other paint company in Western Michigan.

DE 161-1355  
KSB/tcd/pjw -1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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RUSSELL M. SPOONER, [REDACTED]  
Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number [REDACTED]  
was interviewed on October 18, 1973, by SA [REDACTED]

SPOONER is the President of the Spooner Oil Company at 1171 Plainfield, Northeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number 454-6971. SPOONER has known Congressman GERALD R. FORD since 1954. His contacts with GERALD FORD are derived primarily from his mutual association with the Grand Rapids Downtown Kiwanis Club. SPOONER expressed the highest regard for Congressman FORD. He has been particularly impressed with Mr. FORD's unyielding sincerity, honesty and responsiveness to his constituency, the Fifth Congressional District. SPOONER regarded him as an individual of highest moral stature. SPOONER advised that he knows of no derogatory information regarding Congressman FORD's associates, either personal or political. SPOONER is unaware of Congressman FORD's position with respect to civil rights.

SPOONER concluded that the appointment of GERALD FORD to the office of Vice President will provide this nation with a hardworking and honest Vice President whose integrity and reputation are beyond reproach.

DE 161-1355  
KSB/rlg/kfm - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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FRED BAUGHMAN, [redacted] Grand Rapids, Telephone [redacted], was interviewed and advised he is the Director of Home Ownership Services for the Greater Grand Rapids Housing Corporation (non-profit), 412 Mc Kay Tower, Grand Rapids, Telephone 459-6295. BAUGHMAN has known Mr. FORD since 1960. At the time of the meeting BAUGHMAN was employed with the Department of Commerce and was in charge of U. S. Weather Bureau Services in Western Michigan. BAUGHMAN retired from this position in 1965. Prior to his retirement, BAUGHMAN had worked closely with Mr. FORD on legislative matters relating to Weather Bureau Services activities in Western Michigan. BAUGHMAN has been an active political supporter of Mr. FORD. He described him as an excellent Congressman and he stated he served his constituency in the highest integrity and loyalty.

DE 161-1355  
RAE/jas:lcc - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted on October 18, 1973, by SA [ ] in Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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Mr. CARSON O. DONLEY, General Manager, Diesel Equipment Division, General Motors Corporation, 2100 Burlingame, Grand Rapids, advised that he has known Representative GERALD R. FORD on a first name-basis for approximately six years. DONLEY's relationship with Mr. FORD over that period has primarily been one of joint involvement in civic related projects, primarily those of the Grand Rapids area Chamber of Commerce. DONLEY advised that his closest contact with Mr. FORD is an annual trip taken by DONLEY to Washington, D.C., for the National Chamber of Commerce Convention. DONLEY always visits Mr. FORD in his office at the time of this trip and at any other time when business takes him to Washington, D.C. In addition, the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce holds an annual reception and dinner for Mr. FORD and his family. Herein Chamber members are given the opportunity to be more well acquainted with Mr. FORD and his current work in Congress. DONLEY stated that Mr. FORD visited the General Motors Diesel Plant to take a tour of the facility on at least one occasion. DONLEY stated that personally he cannot say enough good things about Mr. FORD's integrity and character. To him Mr. FORD exhibits a quality of soundness which DONLEY believes is required to function in the position of Vice President of the United States. DONLEY stated that in his opinion, no one has more loyalty or moral soundness nor could be more well qualified for the position for which he has been designated.

DONLEY has met Mr. FORD's wife, BETTY, and his sons on several occasions and although he has never been in the FORD home, he feels that he is well acquainted with them. He stated that he is in possession of no derogatory information of any type concerning either Mr. FORD or members of his family.



DE 161-1355  
RAE/jas:lcc - 2

DONLEY stated that with regard to Mr. FORD's views in the area of civil rights, he has no knowledge whatsoever of conflicts between Mr. FORD and local civil rights leaders and DONLEY personally feels that Mr. FORD's stand on civil rights issues is one of equity for all. DONLEY has no knowledge of the mechanics of the financing of Mr. FORD's political campaigns and also has no knowledge of any special interest groups who may have benefited from their association with Mr. FORD.

DONLEY reiterated that Mr. FORD is a man of absolute soundness, reliability and complete integrity and for these reasons he has no reservations about recommending him for the position for which he has been designated.

BUSINESSMAN

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted], at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 19, 1973:

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Mr. JAN S. VANDER HEIDE was contacted at his residence at [redacted] Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. VANDER HEIDE and his sons own the Holland - America Wafer Company at 1823 Division Street, South, Grand Rapids, and he has home telephone number [redacted]

Mr. VANDER HEIDE advised that he has known Mr. GERALD R. FORD since 1948 when Mr. FORD was first elected to Congress. At that time, Mr. FORD defeated Mr. VANDER HEIDE's cousin, BARTEL JONKMAN. He has the highest regard for Mr. FORD and has found him to be a very willing, helpful, Congressman. Mr. FORD strives to serve his constituents to the best of his ability and has always tried not to appear "high-hatted" towards the people of the Grand Rapids area.

Mr. VANDER HEIDE's relationship with Mr. FORD has been only that of a congressional constituent, and Mr. FORD has impressed Mr. VANDER HEIDE as being a hard worker.

Mr. VANDER HEIDE further advised that his company has never obtained a Government contract, and he is not aware of any special interest groups that have contributed money to Mr. FORD's campaigns. He has nothing but praise for Mr. FORD and can think of nothing of a derogatory nature relative to either Mr. FORD or his family. He highly recommends Mr. FORD for the Vice-Presidency.

Mr. VANDER HEIDE continued that Mr. FORD's character, loyalty, morals, and associates are above reproach.

DE 161-1355  
KSB/kpd -1

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BUSINESSMAN

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted], at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

RAYMOND VAN TUINEN, [redacted] Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number [redacted] was interviewed at his place of business, Dydee Service, 839 Butterworth, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone 456-7193. VAN TUINEN is the President and Owner of Dydee Service. VAN TUINEN is the past President of the Grand Rapids Downtown Kiwanis Club.

VAN TUINEN has known GERALD FORD since 1948 and his close association with Mr. FORD has come as a result of Mr. FORD's speaking engagements at the Kiwanis Club. Mr. FORD has spoken to the Kiwanis Club on an annual basis. VAN TUINEN does not know Mr. FORD socially although he regards Mr. FORD as a politician of the highest principles. He stated that FORD's background, to his knowledge, is impeccable from the standpoint of integrity, morality, and honor. He concluded that he knows of no facts which would disqualify Mr. FORD from a position of public trust and he highly recommended him for such a position in the United States Government.

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BBL/jms/td -- 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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The following investigation was conducted in  
Lansing, Michigan, on October 17, 1973, by SA :

JOHN R. DESJARDINS, Vice-President, First of Michigan Corporation, 218 South Grand, telephone 372-4000, advised that he has met appointee GERALD R. FORD once yearly during the past six years. These meetings took place when a group of approximately 60 individuals from the Lansing area traveled on an annual basis to Washington, D.C., under the sponsorship of United States Representative CHARLES CHAMBERLAIN. MR. GERALD FORD spoke to these groups for a short time each year. DESJARDINS has never had any private conversations with MR. FORD and has never met him on a social basis. He stated that MR. GERALD FORD is a man of extremely high integrity who will give a straightforward answer to any question. DESJARDINS knows of no reason why Vice-Presidential appointee MR. FORD could not fully discharge all of the duties and responsibilities of the office of the Vice President of the United States.

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WTJ/srd - 1

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BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

Mr. JOHN BOYLES, Attorney, Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, advised that he has known appointee for approximately  
15 years as a professional associate.

He highly recommends appointee for any position  
of trust and confidence with the United States Government,  
and he stated that although he disagrees with him on many  
political issues, such as the War in Vietnam, he considers  
him to be eminently qualified.

Mr. BOYLES knows of no derogatory information  
concerning the appointee's finances, financial background,  
or campaign budgets.

He considers appointee to be an individual  
of the highest character and loyalty, and to his knowledge,  
his associates are beyond reproach.

He stated that he considers appointee to be a  
very moral individual and cited as an example, the fact  
that he had resigned his position as director of the  
Kent Bank, Kent County, Michigan, when he became assigned  
to the House Banking Committee in Washington, D.C.,  
because of any possible conflict of interest that may  
have developed.

Mr. BOYLES advised that although he knows of  
no specific information regarding appointee's position  
on civil rights, he stated appointee is well thought of  
by minority groups in the Grand Rapids community. Mr. BOYLES  
stated that the appointee is definitely not a bigot nor  
has he indicated, to his knowledge, any sign of moral or  
character weaknesses.

DE 161-1355  
WTJ/srd - 2

Mr. BOYLES knows of no derogatory information concerning appointee or his family which might subsequently be a matter of embarrassment or controversy in the future.

DE 161-1355  
JPW/mam - 1

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b7C

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18,  
1973:

BRUCE E. MAC KELLAR, Vice President, Michigan Colprovia Company, 2020 Chicago Drive, was interviewed concerning the nomination of GERALD R. FORD, JR., as Vice President of the United States.

MAC KELLAR advised that he does not personally know Mr. FORD but has heard him speak at several functions in the Grand Rapids area. He stated that Mr. FORD enjoys an excellent reputation and knew of no derogatory information pertaining to Mr. FORD, his family or associates, his character, loyalty or integrity.

MAC KELLAR further advised that he handles all contract work for his company and that they have not done any Federal contract work with the exception of State or Municipal projects which are Federally subsidized. Along these lines, MAC KELLAR stated that he has no knowledge concerning any kickbacks, favors, etc. pertaining to Government contracts with local business.

MAC KELLAR concluded by stating that based on his limited knowledge of Mr. FORD, and the reputation he enjoys, he would highly recommend him for the Vice Presidency and should the need arise, the Presidency.

DE 161-1355  
PJC/dlc - 1

BUSINESSMEN

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b7c

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

JAMES A. RANTA, Executive Vice-President, R.G.  
Moeller Construction Company, advised that he does not  
know Mr. FORD on a personal or professional basis. RANTA  
also stated that he has no information of a derogatory  
nature about Mr. FORD.



DE 161-1355  
WSN/pjw -1

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan on  
October 17, 1973:

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LAWRENCE E. DOOGE, in the veneer and lumber  
business, 1110 Monroe Street NW, residence [redacted],  
Grand Rapids, Michigan provided the following information:

He stated that he has known the appointee on a  
social basis for 35 years and is well acquainted with  
the appointee's wife, ELIZABETH.

He stated that he has nothing but the highest  
regard for FORD and cannot think of any reason why he  
should not be placed in a position of trust.

Furthermore, he stated that he considers the  
appointee to be absolutely honest, and morally above  
reproach, and that he has never heard of any scandal,  
or anything at all derogatory regarding his family or  
acquaintances. He highly recommended the appointee  
for the position of the Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
LAB/srd - 1

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973 at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

CLIFFORD GETTINGS, 1520 Ridgewood, Southeast,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed and provided the  
following information:

He advised he has known GERALD FORD since 1928,  
when he coached him on the South High football team, Grand  
Rapids, Michigan. He advised FORD was the captain of the  
team his senior year and was an outstanding leader as well  
as an outstanding ball player. He advised that each  
Thanksgiving since the 1930 season, when the team was  
undefeated, they have gotten together for a breakfast or  
luncheon. He stated that FORD has attended approximately  
90 per cent of these meetings and these annual contacts  
have enabled GETTINGS to maintain contact with FORD.

He advised that since his first contact with  
GERALD FORD to this day he has thought of him as the finest  
man he knows. He stated that he has always known him to  
be an able leader, a man of high moral standards, excellent  
character and a strong sense of loyalty. He stated that  
FORD has an excellent reputation in the community among  
both Republicans and Democrats. He is particularly noted  
for his fairness and integrity.

He went on to say that when FORD first ran for  
Congress all the members of the 1930 football team canvassed  
for him. He advised he could not say enough about what  
a fine man FORD was and how he felt he was eminently  
qualified for the position of Vice President and could handle  
the duties of President.

He stated his social life is beyond reproach  
and he drinks moderately. He said FORD maintains a high  
level of physical fitness and knows of nothing in FORD's  
background which could cause embarrassment to the government  
or to FORD and his family.

DE 161-1355  
LJM:dkd - 1

BUSINESSMEN

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b7c

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973,  
at Lake Odessa, Michigan:

LAWRENCE J. SMITH, President of Smith and Brothers Elevators, 1105 Fourth Avenue, Lake Odessa, Michigan, was interviewed at his place of business. SMITH advised he has known GERALD FORD for approximately 25 years, inasmuch as he has worked with him as a loyal Republican Party member. He considered Mr. FORD's character as tops and his morals as **unimpeachable**.

SMITH knew of no associates of Mr. FORD's that would in any way, endanger his public office and considered Mr. FORD to be an extremely loyal American.

SMITH had never heard Mr. FORD say anything derogatory or prejudice against any minority groups. SMITH had never had any business dealings with Mr. FORD and no financial transactions ever took place between him and Mr. FORD.

SMITH considered Mr. FORD highly competent and definitely recommends him as a capable person to handle the job of Vice President of the United States.

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DE 101-1055  
KAT:kc/dk6 - 1

FOIA(b)(7)(C)

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The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973,  
at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

RANDSON WEAVER, City Clerk, Grand Rapids, advised that he has been acquainted with GERALD FORD for numerous years and is in occasional contact with him regarding the position which he now holds for the City of Grand Rapids. He stated that he is a registered Democrat, however, Mr. FORD is a Republican whom he always votes for in elections.

He stated that Mr. FORD was of the highest character and he has never heard even the slightest rumor regarding his reputation, fellow associates, or loyalty to the country. WEAVER advised that in his opinion, he is one of the most upright Congressmen that we have and that he is fully qualified with the proper experience and ability for the position to which he has been appointed and he feels that he is also qualified to assume the position of President should that particular situation arise.

He stated that appointee is the type of individual that can have many things thrown at him at the same time, but will sit down logically without any problem and come up with the right or proper decision. He stated that as a City Clerk, he is aware of local election returns and stated that appointee is very popular with both Republicans and Democrats and has always been the largest vote getter in this area.

WEAVER stated that one example of appointee's integrity that he was aware of was an offer by the Old Kent Bank to become a Vice President for that organization, but he stated that appointee turned this down fearing that there might be a conflict of interests.

DE 161-1355  
RJG/ald - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Walker, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

LOU CARLSON, Plant Manager, Peerless Cement Company, 1331 Pannell, Walker, advised that he has very little personal knowledge of Mr. GERALD R. FORD. Mr. CARLSON did state that in his opinion, Mr. FORD is a man of high morals and character, and he would not even think of questioning his loyalty to his country. Mr. CARLSON stated he has no knowledge of any of Mr. FORD's associates.

Mr. CARLSON stated that he likes Mr. FORD's common sense and was in favor of Mr. FORD's attempts at reducing the State sales tax. Mr. CARLSON stated that he is not familiar with any other views held by Mr. GERALD FORD.

Mr. CARLSON advised that to the best of his knowledge the Peerless Cement Company has had no financial dealings with Mr. GERALD R. FORD.

Mr. CARLSON stated that he has not heard of any derogatory information concerning Mr. GERALD FORD or his family and further stated that he would like to see Mr. GERALD FORD approved as Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
JMF/js/dll - 1

BUSINESSMAN

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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Mr. GEORGE A. BEAN, Ex-City Manager, Grand Rapids, now Municipal Consultant, Williams and Works, 250 Michigan Avenue, Northeast, Grand Rapids, stated that although he does not know appointee GERALD R. FORD personally, he has had dealings with Mr. FORD pertaining to city affairs when Mr. BEAN was City Manager, and also through their mutual associations such as the Breakfast Club which they both belong to.

He stated that he knew nothing derogatory regarding Mr. FORD's character, loyalty to the country, or morals.

Mr. BEAN stated that in all his professional dealings with Mr. FORD, he was very responsive, cooperative and thoroughly dedicated to his job of representing the needs of his constituents. Mr. BEAN stated Mr. FORD is very conscientious concerning the needs of his community.

To Mr. BEAN's knowledge, Mr. FORD has never represented any special interest group nor has he ever accepted favors from anyone. As far as Mr. FORD's civil rights views, Mr. BEAN said that the appointee may be a little negligent to the lower income groups of his district. He stated that Mr. FORD resolved all racial or civil rights problems, but only if they were presented to him. He is not a man to seek out civil rights problems, but Mr. BEAN stated he thought this was due to Mr. FORD's background and type of people that are in his district.

With respect to a recommendation for the position of the Vice Presidency of the United States, Mr. BEAN stated that Mr. FORD is not imaginative enough nor does he have the potential growth on constitutional and nationwide issues that a Vice President should have; however, under the present circumstances, he would support Mr. FORD for that position. Mr. BEAN stated that Mr. FORD is wholly a political animal who would support his party no matter what, but would not lower his morals to do so.

DE 161-1355  
JMF:js - 2

In closing, BEAN, a political independent in the Grand Rapids community, stated he has never seen anyone who works harder for his constituents or dedicated to his job.

DE 161-1355  
WTJ/srd - 1

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

JACOB G. HAAGSMAN, of [ ], Wyoming,  
Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD FORD since the  
statewide elections in 1970.

He is employed as a painting contractor in the  
Grand Rapids area and he stated that Mr. FORD has supported  
him in his bids for election to the state legislature in  
1970 and 1972.

He advised that Mr. FORD contributed \$100.00 to  
his campaign in 1970 and \$200.00 in 1972. He knows of no  
impropriety in connection with Mr. FORD in any election  
or campaign funds. He stated that the contributions were  
filed with Kent County as a legislative donation and they  
were paid directly to him from Mr. FORD's office. He  
stated that Mr. FORD supported him based on his membership  
in the Republican Party and active role in Republican affairs.

He stated that he recommends Mr. FORD highly  
for any position of trust and confidence with the United  
States Government.

He stated that although he disagrees with many  
of Mr. FORD's policies, he feels that Mr. FORD is an  
honest open minded individual of good character and  
associates. He described Mr. FORD as an individual who  
relates well to community problems and he is well aware  
of racial problems. He considers Mr. FORD a moderate on  
most political issues and he believes that Mr. FORD strongly  
supports civil rights legislation.

Mr. HAAGSMAN knows of no derogatory information  
in either Mr. FORD's personal background or business dealings.



DE 161-1355  
PJC/dlc - 1

BUSINESSMEN

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b7c

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

LEONARD S. METSKER, part owner, Miller Equipment  
Company, 1425 28th Street, SW, advised that he does not  
know Mr. FORD on a personal or professional basis. METSKER  
also stated that he has never heard of anything derogatory  
about Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
JAB/emv - 1

BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS

b6  
b7c

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

FRANK MERLOTTI, Vice President of Manufacturing, Steelcase Incorporated, 1120 36th Street, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone 241-2681, advised that he met appointee on one occasion at a Grand Rapids social function. He stated that this was his only personal contact with Mr. FORD. He could not recall the date.

MERLOTTI stated he feels that President NIXON made an excellent choice in selecting the appointee for the office of Vice President. He stated that he regards the appointee as a man with excellent character, and the highest loyalty and morals. He stated the appointee is a very honest man who has served the people of Grand Rapids well as their Congressman.

MERLOTTI stated he could not provide any derogatory information concerning Congressman FORD.

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DE 161-1355  
JEM:bjk/ekd - 1

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE

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b7c

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at  
Detroit, Michigan:

On October 16, 1973, THOMAS J. TURNER, President of the Metropolitan AFL-CIO, 2310 Cass, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 963-4233, advised he has known Mr. GERALD FORD professionally since 1964. In 1964, Mr. TURNER was an organizer of political action for District 29 of the Steel Workers' Union and in 1966 was administrative assistant to AL BARBER, President of the Wayne County, AFL-CIO. In both of these positions, TURNER had frequent political contact with Mr. FORD.

During 1968, TURNER had contact with Mr. FORD as President of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP regarding Congressional legislation. TURNER's contact has been of a professional nature and he did not know Mr. FORD socially.

TURNER said that Mr. FORD's character, morals and loyalty are beyond reproach and he could think of no one who would score more highly in this regard. TURNER has heard nothing unfavorable regarding any associates of Mr. FORD. TURNER had no knowledge of Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney.

TURNER said he felt that Mr. FORD's loyalty to President NIXON and his constituency caused him to be somewhat conservative in his civil rights policies. TURNER stated that he was unaware of any unethical practices regarding Mr. FORD's financial background.

TURNER summed up his interview by stating, "If you like RICHARD NIXON, you'll love JERRY FORD."

DE 161-1355  
LJM/dkd/KAB - 1

BUSINESSMEN

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Lake  
Odessa, Michigan:

RICHARD C. FRENCH, City Councilman, Lake Odessa,  
and Operations Manager, Lake Odessa Machine Products,  
was interviewed at his place of business. FRENCH advised  
that he has never met GERALD FORD personally, however,  
has attended functions for the City of Lake Odessa, which  
Mr. FORD attended.

FRENCH advised that he has never heard any  
derogatory remarks concerning Mr. FORD's reputation,  
character, or morals.

FRENCH advised that the city council had  
occasionally requested Mr. FORD's advice in city projects,  
however, Mr. FORD was never involved directly with any of  
these endeavors.

DE 161-1355  
AW:jfd - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Kentwood, Michigan:

Mr. JOHN SLAGTER, President of Slagter and Son, Construction Company, 4804 Kimball, Southeast, Kentwood, Michigan, advised he has never personally met GERALD R. FORD, nor does he know anything about Mr. FORD except what he has read in the local newspaper.

Mr. SLAGTER said he could not comment from personal knowledge on the character, morals, associates, views or qualifications of Mr. FORD.

Mr. SLAGTER said he has received contracts involving Federal funds but they were obtained as a result of offer bidding with the Michigan State Highway Department. The contract is always awarded to the lowest bidder, according to SLAGTER.

Mr. SLAGTER advised that an assistant of Mr. FORD's, GORDON E. VANDOTILL, is a member of his church, the Christian Reform Church. He advised that VANDOTILL is known to him only as a church member.

DE 161-1355  
DAT/js/pjw -1

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

EMIL LOCKWOOD, Partner, Public Affairs Associates, 416 West Ottawa, advised that he is acquainted with appointee, GERALD R. FORD. He advised that he has known him politically, as he had formerly been a member of Michigan State Senate, was former Republican Senate Leader and State Chairman for the Committee to Re-Elect the President. He stated he has also had recent contact with the appointee in his present position as a registered lobbyist in the State of Michigan. He stated that appointee's reputation is one of an honest, hardworking politician. He considers him to be of high moral character and a patriotic American citizen. He has never heard anything derogatory concerning appointee personally or concerning his political life. He would recommend him for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
LJM/pap -1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Grand  
Rapids, Michigan:

GORDON R. ANDERSON, Vice President, Program Management, Lear Siegler, Incorporated, 4141 Eastern Avenue, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number 241-7757, was interviewed at his place of business.

ANDERSON met GERALD FORD at a businessmen's luncheon in approximately 1966. Since that time he has occasionally visited with Mr. FORD, both in Grand Rapids and Washington, D. C., discussing the trends in government concerning business. ANDERSON has never become socially acquainted with Mr. FORD. To ANDERSON's knowledge, Mr. FORD has no affiliation with Lear Siegler, Incorporated, and has never been employed by the company.

ANDERSON has never heard any derogatory remarks concerning Mr. FORD's character. Once in a while people disagree with Mr. FORD's political ideas, but not his ethical conduct.

ANDERSON felt Mr. FORD is completely honest and a fair man. He knows of no reason why Mr. FORD would not be a good Vice President of the United States.

DE 131-1355  
JPW/emv - 1

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

RICHARD E. BICHLER, President, Bichler and Son Construction, 622 Webster, Northwest, stated that he does not personally know Mr. GERALD FORD but has heard him speak at several civil functions. BICHLER did note that he, BICHLER, is acquainted with several individuals who know Mr. FORD and they maintain that Mr. FORD is of impeccable character. According to BICHLER, Mr. FORD is very well liked by the populace of the Kent County, Michigan, area. BICHLER noted that he has never heard an unkind word about Mr. FORD, his family, or associates.

BICHLER concluded by stating that based on his limited knowledge of Mr. FORD and his excellent reputation in the community, he believed that Mr. FORD would make an outstanding Vice President, and if the need arose, President.



DE 161-1355  
GPD/dag - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October  
18, 1973:

BOYD S. SLATER, Salesman, Telford and Doolen Company, 3901 28th Street, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan, was contacted at his place of employment at which time he advised that he does not know GERALD R. FORD on a personal basis, however, he has met Mr. FORD through the Grand Rapids Breakfast Club several years ago. SLATER advised that to his knowledge he was never made aware of any situation in Mr. FORD's background which would discredit his (Mr. FORD's) character, reputation, associates or loyalty with respect toward the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
JWA/msl - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED], at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

FRED J. BOYLEN, President, Boylen, Longman and Doolittle, Inc., 6510 Buchanan Avenue, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has been in the bonding insurance business for twelve years. BOYLEN stated that his company deals with some twentyfive contractors and he personally travels extensively in Michigan.

BOYLEN further stated that although he personally is acquainted with Congressman GERALD FORD's brothers, DICK and TOM, he does not know GERALD FORD very well. BOYLEN said that he has never heard of any derogatory information mentioned in connection with Mr. FORD. BOYLEN also stated that he would be deeply surprised to hear of such information.

BOYLEN advised that his insurance company is one of the largest bonding companies in western Michigan and he felt in view of his numerous personal contacts, should any information of a derogatory nature concerning Mr. FORD's part be true, he surely would be made aware of it.

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BU 151-1355  
LDE/bjw - 1

b6  
b7c

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at the Ford Motor Company (FMC), World Headquarters, The American Road, Dearborn, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

Mr. HENRY FORD II, Chairman of the Board, FMC, World Headquarters, Dearborn, Michigan, telephone number 322-2465, home address 457 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, 48236, telephone number TU 4-7343, advised as follows:

He has known Representative GERALD R. FORD for approximately thirty-five years, having met him originally in about 1938 while attending Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut, and while participating in sports activities.

He knew him closely for about two years and since that time he has only known him on a casual basis, possibly having met him four or five times in the past five years, and for this reason he does not know his associates; however, from what contacts he has had with GERALD R. FORD, he has found him to be a nice guy, pleasant to be with and has enjoyed his company. He advised he knows nothing of a derogatory nature about him.

Mr. HENRY FORD II advised he has no ideas or knowledge of Mr. GERALD R. FORD's qualifications as an attorney nor does he have any knowledge of his financial background or his position or views with regard to civil rights.

Mr. HENRY FORD II advised that he feels he, himself, is not in a position to know or to make a recommendation one way or the other with regard to GERALD R. FORD's Vice Presidential qualifications. He commented, however, that from what little he knows of GERALD R. FORD, he knows nothing which would lead him to believe he is not qualified to be Vice President.

Mr. HENRY FORD II advised that another member of the FMC staff who might know GERALD R. FORD is Mr. THOMAS R. REID, Executive Director, Civic and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. THOMAS R. REID, Executive Director, Civic and Governmental Affairs, Governmental Affairs and Planning Staff, FMC, World Headquarters, Dearborn, Michigan, telephone number 322-9131, home address 1730 Shore Club Drive, St. Clair Shores, Michigan 48080, telephone number 773-7724, advised as follows:

He has known Representative GERALD R. FORD for about the past twenty-two years. He first met GERALD R. FORD in early 1951 and has known him since that time.

Mr. REID's contacts with GERALD R. FORD have been personal and, to some degree, political in nature. REID has known GERALD R. FORD as a Republican.

During approximately 1951 and 1952, Mr. REID worked actively in connection with General DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER's nomination as the Republican Presidential candidate and met with GERALD R. FORD on a number of occasions during this period as well as the period following EISENHOWER's election as President.

Following EISENHOWER's election as President, REID was appointed as Director of Manpower, Office of Defense Mobilization, Executive Staff of the President, and worked in Washington, D. C., for a period of eight or nine months in 1953 while on a leave of absence from FMC. During this time he had occasions to work with GERALD R. FORD on manpower matters.

Sometime during the mid 1950's, REID was a member of a committee of Michigan Republicans who met with GERALD R. FORD seeking his commitment to run as the Republican candidate for Governor of Michigan; however, he, FORD, declined to run.

Mr. REID's meetings and contacts with GERALD R. FORD over the years have included occasional personal and social dinner type contacts. Such meetings and contacts, all brief in nature, have been many over the years.

Mr. REID advised that GERALD R. FORD is a very likable person, very well regarded by himself and, in his opinion, also well regarded and universally liked by the people of Michigan, and he, REID, knows of no enemies of FORD.

Mr. REID has never heard any criticism of FORD's honesty and integrity and he, himself, has never had any doubts or questions as to FORD's loyalty to the United States Government, his character, or morals, and he has always felt complete trust and confidence in him.

Mr. REID related that he has no knowledge of GERALD R. FORD's assets or financial holdings. REID has always assumed that FORD has lived on his Congressional salary as his living circumstances have appeared to be on that level.

Mr. REID's opinion is that GERALD FORD has not had as stiff a contest as other political candidates have had in the State of Michigan since he comes from the Congressional District of Michigan comprising Kent County and Grand Rapids, Michigan which have traditionally voted solid Republican. For this reason there has been little need for financial assistance in FORD's campaigns.

Mr. REID advised that FORD's voting record in the past has been almost traditionally and consistently in support of the Republican Presidential and Congressional policies during the terms of Presidents EISENHOWER, KENNEDY, JOHNSON and NIXON.

Mr. REID advised that he has no knowledge of FORD's views on civil rights matters except that he has voted conservatively the Republican line almost consistently.

Mr. REID advised that he cannot speak with any knowledge as to FORD's qualifications as an attorney. REID feels that FORD has been a good Congressman performing his job well, adequately and honestly and not in a flamboyant manner.

With regard to Mr. FORD's qualifications for Vice President of the United States, Mr. REID related that he can only say that in his opinion he thinks FORD is honest and competent and he knows nothing of a derogatory nature about him.

Mr. REID advised that it is his personal opinion, as a private citizen, that he does not feel he would vote for GERALD R. FORD for President of the United States if he had to do so because he does not feel that FORD is Presidential material and does not feel that FORD has the intellectual depth and capacity to become a great person of the world.

BUSINESS ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted], on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

Mr. RICHARD F. BRUSH, [redacted] East Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number [redacted] President and Chief Executive of Rospatch Corporation, 609 Myrtle NW, Grand Rapids, telephone number 451-3007, advised that he has known GERALD FORD since the summer of 1964, through the present time. Mr. BRUSH was acquainted with appointee until 1969, purely as a constituent. Mr. BRUSH advised that Mr. FORD is the epitome of high character, integrity, honesty, reliability and discretion. He added he considers appointee one hundred per cent trustworthy. Mr. BRUSH stated appointee has been an excellent board member at Rospatch Corporation. He added that appointee is a man of total sobriety, and he has never known the appointee to indulge in excess of any kind. He further stated appointee participates in numerous community activities (fund raising, et cetera), and is an extremely reliable man. Mr. BRUSH continued that as far as he was concerned he was aware of no activities on the part of the appointee which would reveal a lack in any of the above-mentioned qualities. Mr. BRUSH stated the appointee is a dedicated American citizen, and he could not think of anyone more dedicated to his friends, city, state, and mainly his country.

Mr. BRUSH maintained that appointee is one hundred per cent American in terms of his philosophy on the constitutional form of Government. He stated appointee represents the finest of Americans. Mr. BRUSH added that he feels President NIXON did a tremendous thing in choosing GERALD FORD to fill the Vice Presidency.

Mr. BRUSH stated he was not aware of individual or group associations of appointee that would be counter to the best interest of the community and the United States. He stated appointee came from a fine family and that his school activities were of high integrity. Appointee was a top athlete in school, a vigorous man and a good student in college, according to Mr. BRUSH. Mr. BRUSH continued that appointee's relationship with people going way back reflects a fine American background. Mr. BRUSH further advised that appointee maintains very close relationships with community, business and ethnic leaders in his district. Mr. BRUSH could not think of anything in appointee's records that would be un-American. Mr. BRUSH stated he could not think of anyone more qualified for the Vice Presidency than GERALD FORD, stating "he is an untiring worker".

DE 161-1355  
JMF/js:msl - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

FRANKLIN L. CORNELIUS, retired salesman from Wolverine Brass Parts, residence 929 San Jose, Grand Rapids, provided the following information:

CORNELIUS stated that he has known appointee, GERALD R. FORD, only casually for about 30 years, but he knows more about the appointee's wife's family who live in White Fish Lake, Michigan. He stated that FORD's loyalty to the country, character, and morals are of the highest caliber. As far as Mr. FORD's views on civil rights, he stated that Mr. FORD listens to all his constituents and represents all the people of his district.

Although CORNELIUS stated he had no business dealings with Mr. FORD personally, he had never heard of anything derogatory about Mr. FORD either professionally or socially. CORNELIUS stated that he knew of no close associates of Mr. FORD but doubts seriously that Mr. FORD would be associated with anyone of dubious character. In conclusion, CORNELIUS stated that he would recommend Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
RAS/srd - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

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BRITTON L. GORDON, 2929 Bonnell Street, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed at his place of business, Dover Corporation, 2627 East Beltline Road, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and advised that he has known GERALD FORD since 1946 and during the time of his association has contacted him on numerous occasions in business, political, and religious activities. Following Mr. FORD's return from World War II, GORDON became acquainted with him and at that time, Mr. FORD enjoyed a reputation in the area as an excellent athlete and an intelligent man with a bright future as an attorney. GORDON stated he was happy to see the appointee decide to enter politics in 1948 and since that time has supported Mr. FORD and assisted in his campaigns.

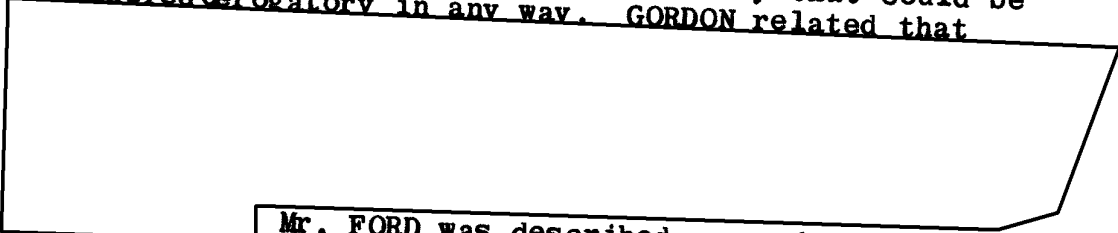
During the past Congressional campaign GORDON served as Treasurer for the FORD for Congress Committee and was responsible for funds received and distributed by the group. GORDON stated records for the committee were filed with the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. and copies are also maintained with HILARY SNELL, and in a fireproof vault in his office.

GORDON stated that he is well acquainted with not only the appointee, but his immediate family as well, and he has never heard anything that would reflect unfavorably upon Mr. FORD or his family. GORDON stated he was in appointee's homes in Grand Rapids and Washington, D.C. and he has never seen him conduct himself in an offensive manner.

GORDON advised he has never heard of Mr. FORD having any domestic problems and from his point of view Mr. FORD is a dedicated family man. There are no problems



connected with Mr. FORD's immediate family that could be considered derogatory in any way. GORDON related that



Mr. FORD was described as perhaps the hardest working man GORDON had ever observed and was totally dedicated to his job. GORDON stated Mr. FORD was never one that could be pushed or forced into making a decision and that any matter that came to his attention was given intelligent and careful consideration. Mr. FORD stated the best way to summarize Mr. FORD's attitude toward an issue in Congress is that he would do what is best, first for the country as a whole, and secondly for his constituency. GORDON stated that Mr. FORD's demeanor as a Congressman fully qualifies him for the position of Vice President of the United States.

GORDON stated the appointee's character, integrity, and morality were beyond question and he had never heard anyone express uncomplimentary statements concerning Mr. FORD and that included his political opponents.

GORDON stated that he was unaware of any conflict of interest or other financial involvements that would be an embarrassment in any way to the appointee. At one time Mr. FORD became a member on the Board of Directors of the Old Kent Bank, but this position was relinquished after some consideration of its implications to his political career. In addition, Mr. FORD also held a position on the Board of Directors of Rospatch Corporation which earned him a small salary each year. GORDON had never heard of Mr. FORD intervening or gaining favors for anyone that could be considered in poor judgement, and to the contrary, most people knew Mr. FORD to be a man of great honesty.

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DE 161-1355  
WNA/pjf - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] at Cedar Springs, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

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ROBERT VAN GRIMSLY, City Manager and former Mayor, Rockford, Michigan, has known Mr. FORD for approximately ten years on a professional basis as Mr. FORD frequently visits all of the towns in the Fifth District of Michigan. VAN GRIMSLY believes Mr. FORD favors civil rights legislation that will give everyone equal rights. Mr. FORD's character, loyalty, morals and financial affairs have always been beyond reproach. VAN GRIMSLY advised he has never heard anything derogatory that could possibly be linked to GERALD R. FORD.

It is VAN GRIMSLY's opinion that Mr. FORD is qualified for the office of Vice President and he fully recommends him on his past record as a Congressman, representing the Fifth District of Michigan.

DE 161-1355  
PJC/cel - 1

BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONAL

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [ ] on October 17, 1973:

THOMAS GLEASON, President, Wolverine World-Wide Inc., Rockwood, Michigan, advised he first met GERALD FORD approximately three years ago and within the last six months has seen him on quite a few occasions because of GLEASON's interest in international trade regulations. GLEASON stated that he considers Mr. FORD to be a man of the highest integrity and unquestionable honesty.

GLEASON stated he feels that Mr. FORD is an ideal selection for the Vice President spot but did not consider him to be an outstanding candidate for President. GLEASON stated that Mr. FORD in his opinion lacks the executive experience which he feels to be necessary as prerequisite to hold the office of President. GLEASON reiterated that he feels Mr. FORD is an excellent choice for Vice President.

JOHN D. BUNBURY, President, International Operations Division, Wolverine World-Wide, Inc., Rockwood, Michigan, advised he has known GERALD FORD since the early 1950s and he has always been extremely impressed with his integrity and honesty. He also considered Mr. FORD to be an extremely well organized man who is conscientious in fulfilling his duties as an elected official.

BUNBURY also stated that Mr. FORD has always been very receptive to the needs of his constituents in the Grand Rapids area. He has no reservations whatsoever regarding Mr. FORD's ability to fulfill the duties of Vice President of the United States. BUNBURY also stated that Mr. FORD is qualified to discharge the duties of the President should that ever become necessary.

DE 161-1355  
JHE/cjn - 1

BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

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The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
on October 17, 1973:

Mr. JACK ROBERTS, President, Pantlind Hotel,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he knows GERALD FORD  
socially and as a person who uses the facilities of the  
Hotel when he is in Grand Rapids, Michigan. ROBERTS advised  
that Mr. FORD is of the highest character, a very loyal  
and dedicated citizen of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and of  
the United States, and that the reputation of both Mr.  
FORD and his associates are untarnished.

DE 161-1355  
PWH/kc -1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

JOHN G. STARR, Attorney, 524 Trust Building, Pearl Street, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone GL. 9-4261. residence, [ ] Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone [ ] said he was raised on the same street as the appointee, and has known him since approximately 1918. He said he has not seen MR. FORD socially for about twenty years, but occasionally sees and exchanges pleasantries with him at business and political meetings.

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STARR said he is a Democrat and has been active in local politics. He said that he disagrees with the appointee on some political issues, but considers him to be a person of the highest personal integrity in all respects, who would make a fine Vice President. STARR said the appointee's most outstanding quality is his ability to get along with people.

STARR said as far as he knows, the appointee's associates and members of his family are high quality people whose behavior would in no way reflect upon MR. FORD adversely. He said he has known two of MR. FORD's brothers, JAMES and THOMAS, for many years and thinks well of them.

DE 161-1355  
JWA/cjn - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] on October 18, 1973:

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JESS J. WADLE, Bond Manager, Hartford Insurance Company, 60 Division Avenue, Grand Rapids, Michigan, (456-9521) advised he has been with the company for ten years and in the Grand Rapids area for the previous three years.

WADLE felt that even though he did not know Mr. FORD personally, he had no reason to question his loyalty, integrity, and associates.

DE 161-1355  
WNA:pjw/dkd - 1

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

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MICHAEL LAREAU, General Manager, WOOD Radio,  
120 College, SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, provided the  
following information regarding CERRALD R. FORD:

Mr. LAREAU believes appointee's character,  
morals, and loyalty are all above reproach. LAREAU  
has resided in Grand Rapids for approximately 17 years  
during which time he has often covered newsworthy  
events concerning appointee. During this time, he has  
been impressed by appointee's frankness and ability to  
put the interest of his constituents above everything  
else.

LAREAU stated that he feels the appointee is  
an honest, loyal American whose concern is for all  
Americans. He knows of no derogatory information con-  
cerning appointee and would highly recommend him for  
the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
CWM/clc - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Detroit, Michigan:

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EDGAR HAYES, Public Relations Director, Michigan Railroad Association advised he has known appointee for over thirty years. He stated that their relationship has been strictly business and not social.

He stated that he has had several meetings with appointee in Washington, D. C., concerning Railroad matters and has always found him to be most receptive and responsive.

HAYES stated he has never heard anything derogatory about appointee's character, or loyalty and he considered him to be a very distinguished gentleman. He further stated he would highly recommend him for the job of Vice President of the United States.

Mr. HAYES furnished his home address as [redacted]  
[redacted], Detroit, Michigan.



DE 161-1355  
TJL/cel - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October  
18, 1973:

BRUCE RADDER, President of Radder Advertising, Inc.,  
residing at [ ], Grand Rapids, telephone  
number [ ], stated that he is acquainted with Congressman  
GERALD R. FORD in a professional capacity and has been so  
acquainted for at least ten years.

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RADDER stated that approximately in 1963, he occupied  
office space at 425 Cherry Street, Grand Rapids, in the same  
professional building in which Congressman FORD had his office.  
Sometime during 1963, as a convenience to both Mr. FORD and Mr.  
RADDER, it was decided that they would share a suite of offices  
in the building, using a common receptionist and sharing common  
office facilities. It was RADDER's understanding that at that  
time Congressman FORD did not have a full-time staff and the  
sharing of an office appeared to be a very practicable solution  
to his need for office space in Grand Rapids. RADDER operated  
his advertising business at the offices at the same time that  
Congressman FORD occasionally used his office to conduct  
Congressional business when he was in town.

RADDER identified [ ] as the receptionist-  
secretary who was employed by both men. She was paid jointly  
by both offices; part of her salary came from Washington, D.C.,  
and she was included on Congressman FORD's Congressional payroll.

In approximately 1972, Congressman FORD moved to a  
new suite of offices in the Federal Building and RADDER moved  
his business to 312 East Fulton Street, Grand Rapids. Since  
that time, he has had little or no contact with Representative  
FORD.

RADDER characterized Congressman FORD as a hard-working,  
dedicated and sincere public servant. He has no knowledge of any  
derogatory information which would reflect adversely on the  
Congressman or his candidacy for Vice President. He considers  
him an extremely moral individual, and knows his reputation to

DE 161-1355

TJL/cel - 2

be of the highest caliber. RADDER is not generally familiar with members of Mr. FORD's family or of his Congressional associates. He has never discussed financial transactions with Mr. FORD and he has no information relating to those matters.

Finally, he has never spoken to Mr. FORD on issues relating to racial matters or civil rights, but he has no reason to believe that Mr. FORD is anything but unbiased and fair. He has never heard him express any prejudicial or derogatory statements in these areas.

RADDER considers Congressman FORD to be a fine choice for the office of Vice President and he recommends him very highly.

DE 161-1355  
JMF/kab:msl - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Wyoming, Michigan, on October 19,  
1973:

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AUGUST BULTEMA, Secretary and Treasurer of Bultema Brothers, Incorporated, 2010 Chicago Drive, Wyoming, Michigan, stated he has never had any personal dealings with Mr. FORD and is not aware of any of Mr. FORD's associates. Mr. FORD has always conducted himself as a true gentleman both in politics and socially from what BULTEMA has read in the local newspapers.

Although BULTEMA stated he does not follow politics to a great extent, he believes Mr. FORD would be a capable man in the position of Vice President.

Best Available Copy

DE 101-1355

TTS:cp/ckd - 2

KALLIEL stated that he knows nothing concerning the appointee which would be detrimental to either our country or appointee individually. He further advised that appointee's name has never come up in a criminal or civil investigation to KALLIEL's knowledge.

KALLIEL concluded that GERALD FORD is a strong supporter of the present administration, loyal to his government, and capable, and possibly the best choice President NIXON could have made for the Vice Presidency at this time.

DE 161-1355  
RFB/ptm/kfm - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
 on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

LOWELL E. HENLINE, Chief of Police, Wyoming, Michigan, advised that he has known appointee for approximately 14 years. HENLINE first became acquainted with appointee at a local Republican Party gathering.

HENLINE stated that appointee is a very capable, conscientious and dedicated civil servant and is very well liked in the community. He further stated that appointee has good rapport with the black community in the area even though appointee did not carry a large segment of the black votes during his last election.

HENLINE advised that appointee's character, morals and loyalty are above reproach. HENLINE said that he has never heard anything of derogatory nature concerning appointee or appointee's family.

HENLINE commented that in his opinion appointee "was a perfect choice by President NIXON and he could not have made a wiser choice than selecting appointee for the Vice Presidency of the United States".

DE 161-1355  
GGR/cgp/pjf - 1

ATTORNEYS AT LANSING, MICHIGAN

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Lansing, Michigan:

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On October 17, 1973, RICHARD E. WHITMER, Attorney, 427 South Capitol Avenue, Lansing, advised he was the Executive Secretary to United States Senator ROBERT GRIFFIN from the Fall of 1967 to January of 1969 and during that time had occasion to meet GERALD R. FORD. WHITMER stated that Mr. FORD is of excellent character and reputation and stated he knows nothing derogatory regarding Mr. FORD in any way. WHITMER stated he believes Mr. FORD will make an excellent Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
GGR/cgp/pjf - 1

ATTORNEYS AT LANSING, MICHIGAN

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Lansing, Michigan:

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On October 17, 1973, THOMAS MICHAEL DOYLE, Attorney, 427 South Capitol Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, advised he does not know appointee, GERALD R. FORD on a personal basis although he has met him on a couple of occasions. DOYLE stated that he met GERALD FORD through PETE SECCHIA, President, Universal Forest Product, Three Mile Road, Grand Rapids, Michigan, who is a client of DOYLE. DOYLE stated it is his understanding that SECCHIA is going to introduce Mr. FORD at a meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, sometime during the next week. DOYLE stated he considers Mr. FORD to be of excellent character and reputation and from his reputation would consider Mr. FORD to be an excellent condidate for Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
JEM/emv - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]:

On October 16, 1973, GABRIEL ALEXANDER, Attorney and Independent Practitioner of Labor Arbitration, 21910 Greenfield, Oak Park, Michigan, telephone number 313-968-5010, stated that he did not know appointee personally. ALEXANDER stated that although he has had no first-hand dealings with Mr. FORD he knows of no derogatory information concerning his character, morals, associates, or loyalty. ALEXANDER stated that his political views differ from those of Mr. FORD, but as far as political integrity, he could provide no derogatory information.



DA 161-1355  
HMB/rlg - 1

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED], on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

JAMES C. MILLER, 2120 East Shiawassee Drive, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Vice President-Industrial Relations, American Seating Company, 901 Broadway, Grand Rapids, advised he does not know FORD personally, but has met him through mutual speaking engagements, at political rallies in the State of Michigan. He knows FORD by reputation only, which he considers excellent and based on this, he believes FORD would make an admirable Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
FHW/nar/lim - 1

BUSINESS LEADER

The following investigation was conducted  
at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA  on  
October 17, 1973:

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Mr. JOHN GOENSE, Division Manager, Consumers Power Company, 4000 Clay, Southwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has been employed at the Consumers Power Company for about the past three years. He stated he does not know Mr. GERALD R. FORD personally. He has been introduced to Mr. FORD a couple of times at meetings such as Chamber of Commerce meetings or Rotary Club meetings where Mr. FORD was the speaker. Mr. GOENSE advised although he does not know Mr. FORD, he has the highest regard for him, has never heard anything derogatory concerning his character, morals, associates, loyalty, or civil rights views, and feels he is highly qualified for the position of Vice President of the United States.

BUSINESS CONTACTS

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

Mr. CALVIN P. OWEN was interviewed at the Owen, Ames, Kimball Company, 300 Ionia Street, NW, Grand Rapids, where he is employed as President of the above company. Mr. OWEN advised that he has had some social contact with appointee but he does not consider himself to be a personal friend of appointee. Mr. OWEN noted that approximately three years ago his company bid on the construction of the Federal Building at Grand Rapids. Mr. OWEN advised that there was no business contact with appointee regarding this contract in that the contract was handled by his, OWEN's, project coordinator directly with the General Services Administration. Mr. OWEN noted that he knows of no derogatory information regarding appointee and to his knowledge he knows of no business dealings that appointee has conducted which were in anyway questionable. Mr. OWEN advised that appointee enjoys an excellent reputation and he has never heard anyone speak of appointee in anyway other than in a highly favorable manner. Mr. OWEN further noted that appointee's reputation and character is extremely favorable and he noted that all of the people that he has acquaintance with all agree that appointee is an extremely well qualified nominee for the Vice President of the United States. Mr. OWEN further advised that appointee's associates are all fine upstanding citizens and that appointee is a loyal and dedicated public servant.

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], on October 17, 1973, at Ionia County,  
Michigan:

Mr. MICHAEL L. CAHOON, Vice President, First Security Bank, 230 West Main Street, Ionia, Michigan, advised that he is presently President of the Saranac Housing Commission, Saranac, Michigan, and in this regard has worked with Mr. FORD. CAHOON advised that on several occasions he has experienced some difficulties concerning such things as approvals by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and stated that Mr. FORD has been completely cooperative and of great aid in helping to solve the problems.

Mr. CAHOON stated that Mr. FORD keeps the welfare of his constituents primarily in his mind at all times and knows of no instances handled by Mr. FORD which could not be viewed as being completely honest and above board in all aspects.

He believes Mr. FORD to be a person of high moral character, great ability and concern for the people he represents.

Mr. CAHOON highly recommended Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President and could offer no derogatory information concerning him.

DE 161-1355  
WTJ/pjf - 1

PROFESSIONAL

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

Mr. PHILIP BUCHEN, Attorney, 740 Old Kent Bank Building, Grand Rapids, was contacted and advised that he has known appointee, GERALD FORD, for over 30 years and for a brief time following Mr. FORD's graduation from Yale University, they worked as law partners in Grand Rapids. Appointee subsequently went to the United States Congress.

Mr. BUCHEN advised that he considers appointee to be eminently qualified for any position of trust and confidence with the United States Government. He knows of no information in Mr. FORD's background of a derogatory nature. He considers appointee's character, loyalty and reputation "to be beyond reproach".

He advised that appointee is well thought of by his colleagues in the field of law and his business ethics are considered impeccable.

Appointee is considered to be a political moderate and he is known to favor strict enforcement of all civil rights laws.

Mr. BUCHEN is aware of no problem in connection with appointee's financial background and he considers Mr. FORD to be completely competent and mature in his financial dealings.

Mr. BUCHEN advised that he is appointee's personal attorney and that he handles Mr. FORD's personal matters. He knows nothing about campaign irregularities or any charges relating thereto outside of what he has read in the newspaper. Mr. BUCHEN recalls reading an article about an \$11,500.00 campaign irregularity; however, he has no information to substantiate the charge, nor has Mr. FORD ever discussed this problem with him. Mr. BUCHEN stated that the statute cited in the newspaper to which this alleged irregularity pertained is not clear and he is not sure whether or not \$10,000.00 would have been Mr. FORD's campaign expenditure limit.

DE 161-1355  
WTJ/pjf - 2

Mr. BUCHEN advised that he does not know who the major contributors were to any of Mr. FORD's campaigns. He does not know whether or not Mr. FORD has a campaign attorney; however, he stated that Mr. FORD is a lawyer and would probably handle any problems arising out of campaign finances himself.

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Mr. BUCHEN is not familiar with [REDACTED] or with any \$38,000.00 campaign irregularity and he reiterated that he knows very little about Mr. FORD's campaign finances.

Mr. BUCHEN is not familiar with the law or policies relating to the Republican National Committee or Republican Congressional Campaign Committee; nor is he acquainted with any of Mr. FORD's contacts on those committees. He advised that all questions relating to the Republican committees would be handled in Washington, D.C. by Mr. FORD's contacts and associates in that city.

DE 161-1355  
ODL/js/pjw -1

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

JAMES F. ANDERTON, IV, President, Simon Iron and Steel Corporation, 1900 West Willow Street, Lansing, advised he has known GERALD FORD for better than six years. He stated he knows him primarily through his political support of Congressman "CHUCK" CHAMBERLAIN, as he has worked as a fundraiser for CHAMBERLAIN. He stated CHAMBERLAIN sponsors "Business Man's Day in Washington, D. C." each year for the past eight or nine years. ANDERTON has attended this function in each of the past six years and GERALD FORD has joined the group and given a short speech in each instance. He has also met and associated with Mr. FORD at other political meetings. He advised that his relationship with Mr. FORD has been primarily limited to these meetings and that he has no other way to evaluate Mr. FORD except through these meetings and a general consensus of opinion regarding Mr. FORD that his fellow Republicans have for him. With this in mind, he advised that there is no question as to Mr. FORD's honesty and integrity. He feels Mr. FORD is totally loyal to the United States, and on the question of morality, he advised that he has never even heard a rumor regarding Mr. FORD which would be derogatory. He considers Mr. FORD a hardworking politician.

DE 161-1355  
PJC/msl/lim - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 19, 1973:

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Mrs. ELEANOR TODISH, Secretary, Union Bank and Trust Company, Grand Rapids, advised that from 1960-1963 she operated the Congressional District Office of Mr. GERALD R. FORD in Grand Rapids. During that time TODISH stated that she found Mr. FORD to be an extremely capable individual who was very aware of his responsibilities to his constituents. Mr. FORD always took an interest in any problems that were brought to his attention through his Grand Rapids office. Also during that time TODISH stated that she never knew Mr. FORD to have accepted any type of gratuity on either a business or on a personal level. TODISH stated that Mr. FORD was very meticulous in maintaining his financial records. TODISH also stated that she has no reservations regarding Mr. FORD's ability to discharge the duties as Vice President or if it became necessary, as President.

TODISH stated that she has known Mr. FORD for approximately 42 years and graduated with him from the same high school. TODISH stated that while she has not been a close associate of the FORD family, she knows that both Mr. GERALD R. FORD and his entire family enjoy an excellent reputation in the Grand Rapids area. She considers Mr. FORD to be an extremely honest individual and knows of no derogatory information concerning him.



DE 161-1355

WE/dag - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

PAUL KNUTSEN, Employment Manager, Doehler-Jarvis Company, 525 Cottage Grove, S.W., advised that he does not personally know the appointee, GERALD FORD, but stated that he is very familiar with him as a politician and as a United States Congressman. He stated that Mr. FORD is of the highest character and that he is extremely trustworthy and honest in his dealings with others. He added that he is eminently qualified for the post of Vice President, and that he highly recommends him for this position.

KNUTSEN stated that he considers Mr. FORD to be completely unbiased racially and also unbiased as to class position and stated that he always has worked to provide the most good for the most people.

KNUTSEN stated that as far as he knew, Mr. FORD associates with persons of high character and moral standards and concluded by stating that Mr. FORD should act as a good go-between between the President and Congress in the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355

WNA/emp - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] at Cedar Springs, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

LIONEL E. SANDRO, Owner, Cedar Springs Hardware, Cedar Springs, advised he has known GERALD R. FORD for 25 years. Mr. FORD often visits the smaller towns in his district and talks personally with many of his constituents. Mr. FORD's character, loyalty, honesty and personal life are unblemished. He is a natural leader who has always been concerned with the problems of his constituents. Mr. FORD is a fair man who believes every man should have equal rights and has pushed for civil rights legislation in the past. SANDRO has never heard anyone mention anything derogatory regarding Mr. FORD. It is SANDRO's opinion that Mr. FORD would make an excellent Vice President of the United States.

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973, at Ionia County,  
Michigan:

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b7c

Mr. J. D. DUNHAM, Executive Vice-President, Ionia area Chamber of Commerce, advised that he has been acquainted with Mr. GERALD FORD for the past three years in connection with his employment. Mr. DUNHAM advised that he was the past Chairman of the Ionia County Republican Party and advised that on one occasion, approximately two years ago, Mr. FORD was a speaker at a gathering in Ionia concerning the raising of funds for the Republican Party.

DUNHAM advised that Mr. FORD was always extremely helpful in every manner possible and advised that he could not think of any derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD. He stated that in his opinion, FORD was a highly ethical individual with high moral standards who kept the welfare of his constituents paramount in his dealings at all times.

Mr. DUNHAM furnished an editorial from the Ionia Sentinel - Standard newspaper, Ionia, Michigan, dated Tuesday, October 16, 1973, whose editorial he quoted as follows:

"Ionia and Kent Counties have lost a Congressman they have known for many years but will now have a Vice President with whom they can and probably will converse regularly.

"When GERALD R. FORD is confirmed as the nation's new Vice-President, it will probably be the last time this county can count on its U. S. Congressman as a personal friend and confidant. GERRY FORD has been that kind of

DE 161-1355  
OJZ/KAB - 2  
—

representative in Washington. Some Ionians and many Kent County residents have known him well from his youthful days back in the late 20's, when at boy scout camp on Duck Lake, near Muskegon.

"It is doubtful that Ionia County again will be as close to its elective representative as it has during the ten years of Congressman FORD. After new redistricting, Ionia County can never again say it will or did elect a Congressman. Kent County electors will call a candidate and will elect him.

"All residents of Ionia County wish GERRY FORD the best of luck and while they feel a sense of loss, all are proud to be a part of the nation's new Vice-President's political history. All can be sure that he will perform well and that the nation will have a working, honest, and conscientious Vice-President.

"And when he can return to Ionia County, he will be as welcome and acceptable as he has been for 25 years."

Mr. DUNHAM advised that he completely agrees with this editorial concerning his thoughts about GERALD FORD and advised that in his opinion, he is the best man available to assume the duties of the Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
RWM/msl - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted on October 18, 1973, by SA [REDACTED], in Grand Rapids, Michigan:

Mr. RENO J. MACCARDINI, General Manager, Michigan Consolidated Gas Company, Grand Rapids District, furnished the following information:

He stated that he has known GERALD R. FORD for approximately seven years on a political, business, and social basis and he considers Mr. FORD a good personal friend. He would not hesitate to recommend Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President of the United States and he feels that Mr. FORD will make an outstanding Vice President. Mr. FORD is supremely capable, an outstanding administrator, and thoroughly professional in all of his dealings. Mr. FORD's loyalty to the United States is unquestioned. His character, associates, and morals are all of the highest caliber.

He stated that he knew of no derogatory information concerning any members of Mr. FORD's family.

DE 161-1355  
WNA/kc -1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Cedar Springs, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

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H. B. RIGGLE, City Manager, Cedar Springs, Michigan,  
provided the following information regarding GERALD R. FORD:

RIGGLE has known MR. FORD for six years and has been  
impressed by MR. FORD's record in Congress and his concern for  
the problems of his constituents. RIGGLE advised MR. FORD  
has repeatedly "gone to bat" for his constituents and that  
he is in favor of equal rights for all individuals regardless  
of race or creed. MR. FORD's loyalty, character, personal  
and public life are all above reproach and in RIGGLE's  
opinion the appointee would make an excellent choice for the  
office of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
EWK/lim/kpd -1

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b7C

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], on October 19, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

ROBERT L. STOCKMAN, Director of West Michigan and Kent Ottawa Regional Planning Commission, Grand Rapids, advised that he is not personally associated with Mr. GERALD R. FORD and that he has only met Mr. FORD one time at Mr. FORD's office in Washington, D.C., during a business trip. STOCKMAN stated that at that time he formed the opinion that Mr. FORD is the type of person who is very interested in problems of his constituents in the vicinity of Grand Rapids and that he is the type of person who would be cooperative with anyone involved in regional planning.

STOCKMAN advised he has never heard any derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD and that Mr. FORD's office has always been very cooperative in answering questions raised by STOCKMAN's commission.

In conclusion, STOCKMAN stated that from all information available to him, Mr. FORD is an outstanding candidate for the office of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
WAT/kpd -1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 19, 1973, by SA [REDACTED]

OLEN H. MC CONNELL, D.D.S., 604 Medical Arts Building, telephone number 459-7284, advised that he has known Mr. FORD since the 1960's as a business and social acquaintance.

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He described the appointee's character as excellent and stated that he had the greatest admiration for Mr. FORD. The appointee's reputation is outstanding and MC CONNELL commented that it was a privilege that he be asked to evaluate such an individual's character and reputation. Mr. FORD's loyalty to the United States is "absolute" and "unquestionable." He would highly recommend Mr. FORD for a position of trust and responsibility with the Federal Government. MC CONNELL was not cognizant of the appointee's stand on civil rights or of his financial status and campaign contributions other than his own contribution. MC CONNELL has met the appointee's wife on several occasions and described her as pleasant but added that he is not well acquainted with her.



DE 101-1255  
RA7/ald - 1

BUSINESSMAN

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 13, 1973, at  
Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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Mr. JOHN M. LEIDLEIN, Production Manager, General Motors Diesel Equipment Division, Grand Rapids, advised that he has known Mr. GERALD R. FORD and members of Mr. FORD's family for approximately 30 years. The closest early contact with Mr. FORD came as a result of being a neighbor of TOM FORD, brother of Mr. GERALD R. FORD, from 1948-1955. He had done business with both TOM FORD and RICHARD FORD when they were associated with the FORD family paint firm. LEIDLEIN has been personally acquainted with Mr. FORD for approximately 20 years. He has known Mr. FORD's wife, BETTY, for approximately 15 years. From LEIDLEIN's contact with Mr. FORD, he considers Mr. FORD to be a man of the highest intelligence, an excellent parent, and a great public servant. He has no personal knowledge of anything derogatory in nature concerning Mr. GERALD FORD or any of the members of his family.

From his observations, LEIDLEIN said Mr. FORD impresses him as being a hardworking individual who is very accommodating to the general public and is extremely responsive to people of all walks of life. LEIDLEIN stated that he personally does not hesitate to call Mr. FORD to ask for advice on any subject at any time. As a member of the business community, LEIDLEIN is impressed by Mr. FORD's deep concern about the needs and attitudes of business and industry. LEIDLEIN has never heard anything derogatory in nature regarding Mr. FORD's position on civil rights and his relationship with local or National Civil Rights leaders.

LEIDLEIN stated that he remembers an instance many years back when he was in a position to offer a sum of money to support Mr. FORD's political campaign on behalf of a group of concerned citizens. When LEIDLEIN made the offer, Mr. FORD told him that he could not accept it and that LEIDLEIN should give the money to the Kent County Republican

DE 161-1355  
RAE/ald - 2

Committee to be distributed among candidates as the Committee saw fit. Mr. FORD told LEIDLEIN, at that time, that this would be the most equitable thing to do. LEIDLEIN stated that he would not hesitate to give Mr. FORD his highest recommendation for the position of Vice President.

GPD:js:psn - 1  
DE 161-1355

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

ANDREW JAFKAS, Manager, Lakos Restaurant, 207 Monroe, Northwest, Grand Rapids, was contacted at his place of employment, at which time he advised that appointee, GERALD R. FORD, has on rare occasions frequented the Lakos Restaurant with his family. JAFKAS stated that while at the restaurant all members of appointee's family present conduct themselves in a highly respectable fashion.

JAFKAS stated that he had met appointee earlier this year at a private party hosted by Mr. PETER SECCHIA, Bryerwood Avenue, Southeast, Grand Rapids, at which time he observed the appointee to conduct himself in a proper manner. Through these observations, he regards the appointee as being a man who he would recommend highly for the position of the Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
RAE/ptm/lk - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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Mr. WILLIAM F. GILBERT, [redacted] Southeast, telephone number [redacted], advised that he is employed as controller of finances at Keyline Freight Company, Incorporated, 16 Andre, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He further advised that he has been personally acquainted with Congressman GERALD FORD for approximately three years. During that time he has met Mr. FORD on two occasions, both of which were at meetings for the purpose of planning fund raising activities for the Kent County Republican Central Committee. He has no knowledge of personal efforts on Mr. FORD's part to raise funds for his political campaign. In that connection, he has heard nothing derogatory of Mr. FORD.

GILBERT stated that his relationship with Mr. FORD has been casual and entirely political. From his observations he feels that the appointee is a fine gentleman of high integrity, excellent reputation, and high moral standards. He does not know Mr. FORD's family and has never heard anything of a derogatory nature about them.

GILBERT stated that he has no knowledge of contacts by anyone at Keyline Freight with Mr. FORD in attempts to gain political support for issues which would be of special interest to that firm.

GILBERT reiterated that he feels Mr. FORD would make the best possible choice for the position of Vice President of the United States and he has no reservations whatsoever about recommending him for the job.

DE 161-1355  
WTJ/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

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WALTER K. SCHMIDT, Attorney, 700 Frey Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has known Mr. FORD for over 30 years as a professional associate. Mr. SCHMIDT stated that in his former capacity as President of the Grand Rapids Bar, he has dealt with Mr. FORD on numerous occasions and found him to be a completely honest and moral individual. Mr. SCHMIDT stated that he highly recommends Mr. FORD for any position of trust and confidence with the United States Government.

SCHMIDT knows of no information of a derogatory nature, which would reflect adversely on Mr. FORD or his associates.

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DE 161-1355

AW/cb - 1

ULYSSES CHAMPION, Executive Director, Economic Development Corporation, 645 South Division, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known GERALD R. FORD for approximately six years.

CHAMPION advised that he became familiar with Mr. FORD while devoting his efforts toward upgrading his program, Small Business Association, which is designed to place more minorities in business.

CHAMPION advised that from his experiences, he has judged Mr. FORD to be a man of good character, morals, and honesty. He also stated Mr. FORD was a man who is always willing to work for his constituency, regardless of his racial background or economical level.

CHAMPION advised he has talked with Mr. FORD on numerous occasions and he has never heard him speak out against anyone. He advised that Mr. FORD has often spoken out for programs and efforts to develop business opportunities for minority people.

CHAMPION advised that he knows nothing derogatory about Mr. FORD, his family, or associates.

CHAMPION advised that he feels Mr. FORD is an excellent choice for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
HKM/dmw - 1

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16,  
1973:

Mr. JOHN D. LUYENDYK, Attorney, 880 Union Bank Building, Grand Rapids, telephone number 456-5337, advised that he has known Appointee since 1933 or 1934. LUYENDYK described Appointee as a brother lawyer and personal friend stating that he knows him "closely" since their days at the University of Michigan. LUYENDYK stated that he has never contributed to Appointee's campaign or has he ever been requested to make a donation. LUYENDYK stated that he is the Chairman of the Michigan State Bar Association Grievance Committee and as such is very aware and particular about the background of the fellow attorneys. He stated in that respect nothing has ever come to his attention which would reflect derogatory information on Appointee's character, reputation, loyalty or associates. LUYENDYK stated he highly recommended Appointee to the high office to which he has been appointed.

DE 161-1355  
JAB/psn/KAB - 1

BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

FRED A. BELL, Vice-President of Marketing, Steel Case, Incorporated, 1120 - 36th Street, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number 241-2681, advised that he has known Congressman GERALD FORD, personally, for approximately eight years. He stated that he first met Mr. FORD at a community social gathering and that his usual means of contact with Mr. FORD is at social functions.

BELL stated that he regards Mr. FORD as a man with the highest character, morals, and loyalty. He stated that he feels Mr. FORD is an excellent choice for the office of Vice-President.



DE 161-1355  
BBL/mpr:cb - 1

BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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b7c

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 17,  
1973:

GILBERT L. HALEY, Executive vice president, Michigan Auto Dealers Association, 1500 Kendale Boulevard, East Lansing, Michigan, advised that he represents the new car dealers in the State of Michigan as a Congressional Lobbyist. He has known appointee GERALD R. FORD for approximately 18 years on a business and business related level. During this period of time, he has found Mr. FORD fair, conscientious, highly respected, and keenly alert to legislative issues. He has never heard anything derogatory concerning Mr. FORD. HALEY advised that he is impressed with the appointee's legislative abilities and has found that appointee is always willing to listen to both sides on all legislative issues. HALEY stated he would fully endorse the appointee for the position of vice president and knows of nothing that would hinder the performance of his duties.

ROBERT J. COOK, General Manufacturing Manager, Automobile Corporation, Lansing, Michigan, telephone number 373-5000, advised that he has met the vice president appointee GERALD R. FORD on only one occasion. He has no personal knowledge of the appointee's abilities as a legislator and has no personal knowledge which would reflect upon the appointee's abilities to perform the duties of the vice president.

JACK DAVIS, Practicing Attorney, 1200 Bank Lansing Building, Lansing, Michigan, telephone number 489-5724, advised that he met vice president appointee GERALD R. FORD on one occasion approximately a year ago. At that time the appointee spoke to a group of individuals from the Lansing area who were in Washington for the day. DAVIS had no private discussions with Mr. FORD and has no knowledge of any derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
LHM:ckg - 1

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b7c

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973, at Lake Odessa, Michigan:

DALLAS BRADEN, President, Bradee Drug Corporation, 1020 Fourth Avenue, Lake Odessa, Michigan, was interviewed at his place of business.

BRADEN advised he had known GERALD FORD for approximately 26 years when he was coached by the appointee at the University of Grand Rapids. Through the years, they have become good friends and have continued to remain so.

BRADEN described appointee as having excellent character and morals. He stated there is no question in his mind that appointee is loyal to the United States and will serve the people to the best of his ability. BRADEN stated appointee had no associates in his personal or business life that he knew of that were not highly reputable in their communities.

BRADEN had never heard appointee make any prejudicial or biased remark toward any minority group.

BRADEN stated that appointee was an excellent politician and had served the people in his district very well. He added that he was not associated politically with appointee or the Republican Party.

BRADEN had no knowledge of any financial transactions on the part of appointee.

BRADEN stated that through his long association with appointee, he could think of nothing derogatory in his past and considered him the most honest politician he has ever known.

DE 161-1355  
DAT/jms:mam - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED];

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On October 17, 1973, TALBERT ABRAMS, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Lansing, Michigan, advised SA DONALD A. THIEL that  
he has had a very limited contact with appointee GERALD R.  
FORD and does not know him well enough to comment on his  
qualifications as Vice President. He offered no derogatory  
information concerning Mr. FORD.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

Mr. IRA W. JACKSON, 18 Elmwood Street, Grand Rapids, advised he retired in 1971 as General Manager of the Grand Rapids City Coach Lines. He currently serves on the Board of Directors on City Coach Lines, Incorporated, Jacksonville, Florida.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of the City Cab Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. JACKSON has known GERALD R. FORD and his wife from the early thirties. He was an associate of GERALD FORD, Sr., in the Western Michigan Purchasing Agents Association. Mr. JACKSON's close association with Mr. FORD is derived from his membership in the downtown Kiwanis Club at Grand Rapids. Mr. JACKSON has been a member of this organization since 1944, and served as the president of this organization in 1962.

Mr. JACKSON stated that Mr. FORD's speech before the downtown Kiwanis was an annual event. It was Mr. FORD's opportunity to discuss with the membership national and international affairs. Mr. JACKSON had frequent meetings with Mr. FORD as they related to these engagements.

Mr. JACKSON described Mr. FORD as an extremely competent and honest official. He stated that Mr. FORD has been most responsive and loyal to his constituency for the past 25 years. Mr. JACKSON regards Mr. FORD as an excellent choice for the office of the Vice President. Mr. JACKSON is unaware of any derogatory information as to Mr. FORD's character, morals and associates.

DE 161-1355  
RMB/cel - 1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent ROBERT M. BLITZER at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

Mr. ERNEST A. MIKA, Senior Partner, Mika, Meyers, Bickett and Jones, Attorneys at Law, 500 Frey Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed regarding GERALD R. FORD:

MIKA advised he has known Mr. FORD for approximately 23 years and has remained in contact with Mr. FORD through the University of Michigan Athletic Association, inasmuch as both he and Mr. FORD are members of that association.

MIKA further advised that he is the President of the Grand Rapids Bar Association and that he knew appointee to be a member in good standing of that bar association and further stated that Mr. FORD had never had any grievances filed against him. MIKA noted that Mr. FORD has not practiced law in this area for 25 years, but practiced briefly after his separation from service in the United States Navy after World War II. He could not comment regarding Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney.

MIKA stated that Mr. FORD's associates, whom he knew personally, were outstanding citizens of the Grand Rapids community and individuals of unimpeachable reputations.

Regarding Mr. FORD's character, MIKA described him as a man of high integrity, morals and of unimpeachable personal ethics. In the area of civil rights he advised to the best of his knowledge Mr. FORD has always been an extremely unbiased individual who holds no prejudices against anyone. He further stated that there is no question about Mr. FORD's ability and loyalty to his country and constituents. MIKA advised he would highly recommend Mr. FORD for any high government position of trust and confidence.

MIKA further advised he knows all of Mr. GERALD R. FORD's brothers and knew his parents and he described them as outstanding members of the community and people of excellent reputation.

DE 161-1355  
JAB/pjf/cb/pjw -1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 19, 1973:

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GORDON FESSENDEN, Secretary, Equipment and Gravel Company, 5205 Division Avenue, South, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that his company is engaged in the construction of sewers and other water passageways. He advised that his company does work for cities and other municipalities on projects which are funded by the Federal Government. He stated that these jobs were funded by such agencies as Housing and Urban Development, Federal Housing Administration, along with several others.

FESSENDEN stated that although he has never met Mr. FORD, he felt that Mr. FORD has done an excellent job as Congressman and that he was an excellent selection for the Vice President of the United States. He stated that from what he has read about Mr. FORD, he feels that he is an honest man with great integrity, character, loyalty and morals. He stated that he is unfamiliar with Mr. FORD's views on civil rights.

FESSENDEN was unable to provide any derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD, his family or associates.

DE 161-1355

GPD/cel - 1

BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by SA  at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 19, 1973:

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JOHN POTTER, President, Potter Construction Company, 3390 Three Mile Road, Northwest, was contacted at his place of employment at which time he advised that he has known Mr. GERALD R. FORD on a casual basis since the early 1950's. He met Mr. FORD through the Kiwanis Club in Grand Rapids and sees him occasionally at club functions.

Mr. POTTER advised that he has never heard any information of a derogatory nature concerning Mr. FORD and has nothing but the highest regard for Mr. FORD describing him as a man of honor and exceptional ability.

POTTER stated he would be unable to evaluate Mr. FORD's ability as a lawyer and that his contact with Mr. FORD was on a limited casual basis.

DE 161-1355  
RMB/fln/lim - 1

BUSINESSMAN

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

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J. W. SAMUELSON, Superintendent, Rieth-Riley Construction Company, Incorporated, 2600 Wilson, Grand Rapids, was interviewed regarding Mr. GERALD R. FORD. SAMUELSON advised he is not a close personal friend of Mr. FORD; however, he has known Mr. FORD through various civic functions in the Grand Rapids area for approximately seven or eight years. In addition, he knows a friend of Mr. FORD's whom he described as a close friend by the name of [redacted] who has a good reputation in the community.

SAMUELSON stated that he and Mr. FORD are both members of the Breakfast Club of Grand Rapids and the Masons in the Grand Rapids area. SAMUELSON advised Mr. FORD is a 33rd degree Mason.

In the area of associates, SAMUELSON advised that he did not know any of Mr. FORD's associates in the area; however, he is a personal friend of Mr. FORD's brother, THOMAS. He stated THOMAS FORD has an extremely good reputation in the community and knows of nothing derogatory regarding THOMAS FORD or his family.

SAMUELSON could provide no derogatory information regarding the morals or ethics of Mr. FORD, and he described him as a man of integrity. Mr. FORD's views on civil rights were unknown to him. In addition, he did not feel qualified to comment on Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney.

Mr. FORD works well with all people and this is certainly an essential part of fulfilling the duties of a high government position. SAMUELSON highly recommended Mr. FORD for Vice President of the United States.



DE 161-1355  
FLF/lcc - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Lansing, Michigan, on October  
19, 1973:

Mr. OTTO SOLOMON, S. D. Solomon and Sons, Road Builders, 3412 Aurelius Road, Lansing, Michigan, advised he met appointee GERALD R. FORD approximately one and a half years ago at a breakfast in Washington, D.C. Mr. SOLOMON stated he could not give any information concerning Mr. FORD's reputation or personal characteristics since this was the only contact he has had with him.

DE 161-1355  
WNA/kpd -1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Rockford, Michigan:

GERALD FOX, Assistant Superintendent, Rockford Public Schools, Rockford, Michigan, has known Mr. FORD since 1949 when he took a high school class to Washington, D.C. and was given a tour of the capital by Mr. FORD. FOX is of the opinion Mr. FORD is a man of outstanding character and morals. All of Mr. FORD's associates are above average citizens of the community. Mr. FORD believes in equal rights for all citizens of the United States regardless of race. FOX stated he believes Mr. FORD has excellent qualifications for the office of Vice President of the United States due largely to twenty five years experience as a Congressman in Washington, D.C.

FOX could furnish no information regarding any derogatory incidents Mr. FORD might have been involved in during the past because he has never heard anyone give GERALD R. FORD anything but the highest praise. FOX recommended Mr. FORD without reservation for the position of Vice President of the United States.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

Mr. E. JUSTIN BROWN, Plant Manager, General Motors Fisher Body Plant #1, 300 - 36th Street, Southwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has personally known GERALD R. FORD for approximately ten years. He advised that he, BROWN, first met Mr. FORD while acting as General Motors' representative on various community-related fund raising committees in the Grand Rapids area. He stated that he has had contact with Mr. FORD on several occasions since first meeting him, and the nature of those contacts has been strictly business and civic. BROWN's most recent contacts with Mr. FORD have resulted through BROWN's service as an officer of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and BROWN's participation in annual United Fund drives. BROWN has had no contact with Mr. FORD socially or politically. He can say nothing of an unfavorable nature about the appointee.

BROWN advised that based on his contacts with Mr. FORD and his knowledge of Mr. FORD's activities, he would have no reservations about giving Mr. FORD his highest recommendation for the office of Vice President of the United States. He stated that Mr. FORD impresses him as being a person of impeccable character with extremely high moral standards who exhibits no prejudices whatsoever. He stated that he can think of no one who appears to be more possessed with the caliber of integrity and loyalty than Mr. FORD to serve as Vice President. He further stated that of the appointee's associates known to him, all are of the same high quality character as that of Mr. FORD. He stated that one of Mr. FORD's most impressive qualities is his ability to relate to assembly line workers as well as business executives.

DE 161-1355  
BAM:cgp:lrc -1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 18, 1973 at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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FRANK MC CARTHY, Treasurer and General Manager, Grand Rapids Concrete Construction Corporation, 1270 Blanchard Street, SW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, stated that his company constructs curbs, gutters and sidewalks in the Grand Rapids Area. MC CARTHY stated that his company has never acted as a subcontractor for the Federal Government and has never received any funds directly from the Federal Government.

MC CARTHY further advised that in the past his company performed jobs for municipal governments which were partially funded by the Federal Government, however, his contract was the local municipality and payments were received directly from them.

MC CARTHY stated that his company has had no contacts with GERALD FORD and no attempts have been made to contact him in an effort to secure favors in the form of Federal contracts. He further advised that the only contacts between his company and Mr. FORD consist of approximately two letters forwarded by his company to Mr. FORD outlining their position concerning labor legislation which was about to be passed.

Mr. MC CARTHY stated that he knows of no reason why Mr. FORD would not make a good Vice President.

BUSINESSMEN

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

JOHN M. MC KAY, 4236 Stone Bridge, Apartment 4, Grand Rapids, Michigan, a retired business relations executive for Hembolshimers Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, provided the following information:

MC KAY stated he has known GERALD FORD for 40 years, having first met him in the Grand Rapids area prior to the time he ran for Congress. Since becoming acquainted with appointee, he has had contact with him both on social and business occasions. In addition, MC KAY has known appointee's wife, BETTY, since the days she worked at his place of employment which was prior to her marriage to Mr. FORD.

In the opinion of MC KAY there is no finer gentleman anywhere and certainly no one that has the respect of more people in the area than does GERALD FORD. In all the years that MC KAY has known Mr. FORD he has never heard anyone speak ill of him and even political opponents consider him a man of highest integrity.

MC KAY stated appointee appears yearly at civic functions in Grand Rapids and this basically is the extent of his contact with him now. Over the years, however, appointee has developed a reputation few men ever obtain and MC KAY stated he feels it is an honor to be numbered among FORD's friends. MC KAY has never heard any derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD or his family and stated he doubted if anyone could say anything uncomplimentary of appointee or his family. He has never heard of any member of the family drinking to excess or creating a problem for anyone.

DE 161-1355

RAS/cel - 2

MC KAY was not familiar with Mr. FORD's financial interest other than his position with Rospatch Corporation, but stated that there had never been a hint of controversy surrounding Mr. FORD's financial involvements that he knew of.

In MC KAY's opinion, appointee was unsurpassed with respect to his character, morals, and integrity, and was qualified for any office of high trust, including the President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
TFS/lcc - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Kentwood,  
Michigan:

Mr. FRANK LEE BRUNNER, [redacted] Southeast,  
Kentwood, Michigan, telephone number [redacted] District  
Representative, D-A Lubricant Company, Inc., 3150 Broadmoor,  
Southeast, telephone number 949-5580, advised that he has  
only met GERALD FORD on two or three occasions at social  
functions but really does not know Mr. FORD on a personal  
basis.

Mr. BRUNNER stated that he could not comment on  
Mr. FORD's reputation, honesty, trustworthiness, reliability,  
or discretion as he does not really know Mr. FORD.

Mr. BRUNNER feels that Mr. FORD has been very loyal  
to the United States, but he bases this conclusion purely  
on his own opinion.

He advised that he is not at all familiar with Mr.  
FORD's wife or family.

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DE 161-1355  
HMB/kab:cb - 1

b6  
b7C

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 19, 1973, in Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

Mr. ARTHUR HARWOOD, 4178 North Norway, Southeast, advised he is an insurance agent for the Peerless Insurance Company, Suite 101, Union Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He further advised he has known Mr. FORD since 1934, when he was a freshman at the University of Michigan and Mr. FORD was a senior. He stated he has associated with Mr. FORD occasionally on a social basis since that time. He believes Mr. FORD to possess the highest of moral standards and to have impeccable character. The friends and associates of Mr. FORD are of the highest caliber. Mr. FORD enjoys the highest of reputations in the community and is well thought of and respected by his political opponents. Mr. FORD is extremely loyal to the United States, its government, and its citizens. He has always represented his constituency in an admirable fashion. He advised he believes Mr. FORD's stand on civil rights to be fair. He has no knowledge of Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney but he knows Mr. FORD had a reputation for competency when practicing in the legal profession. He stated he knows the family of Mr. FORD well and knows them all to be of the same excellent caliber as Mr. FORD. He knows of no social, personal, or physical problems of any member of Mr. FORD's family. He is not familiar with Mr. FORD's political - financial situation, however, he has contributed to Mr. FORD's campaigns on occasion. He believes Mr. FORD to be extremely well qualified for the position of vice president of the United States.



BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

GORDON H. BUTER, President, Associated Truck Lines Incorporated, 200 Monroe, Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone 545-9381, was contacted at his office and he advised that he has known the Vice-President designate GERALD R. FORD for the past 25 years.

Mr. BUTER stated that his relationship with GERALD FORD has been of a business nature. He stated that Mr. FORD has been very receptive to the requests of Associated Truck Lines and that Associated Truck Lines contacts Mr. FORD's office perhaps three or four times a year. Mr. BUTER stated that a majority of the contacts with Mr. FORD's office were done through Mr. FORD's assistant, FRANK MEYER, who is now deceased. He stated that for the past five years most of the Associated Truck Lines' contacts with Mr. FORD's office have been in relation to the highway trust fund and more recently the fuel crisis both of which have enormous impact in the trucking industry.

Mr. BUTER advised that Associated Truck Lines contacts the FORD office because the company knows that GERALD FORD will at least consider the requests of his constituents. He stated that Mr. FORD always welcomes inquiries from any and all of his constituents and is a very conscientious and hard working representative. He stated he considers Mr. FORD to be extremely loyal to his constituents from the Fifth District of Michigan as well as being loyal to the United States.

Mr. BUTER advised that he considers Mr. FORD to be of the highest, moral character and that Mr. FORD is unique as a political figure inasmuch as GERALD FORD has never been slanderized to Mr. BUTER's knowledge.

JDG:cgp -2  
DE 161-1355

Mr. BUTER stated that he is not familiar with GERALD FORD's qualifications as an attorney. He stated that to his knowledge, Mr. FORD is well thought of by the minority groups in his district and that the mayor of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who is a Negro, is a supporter of GERALD FORD's. Mr. BUTER advised that he believes Mr. FORD is considered conservative but that this conservative label is representative of the Fifth District of Michigan. He stated in his opinion the district including the minority groups is conservative. Mr. BUTER advised that he has never heard any derogatory comments regarding GERALD FORD's associates. Mr. BUTER stated that he would not hesitate to recommend GERALD FORD to the Vice-Presidency.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

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Mr. LOUIS WILLIAM SIEDMAN, President of Siedman and Siedman, located at 865 Old Kent Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, residing at 1615 Butterick Road, Ada, Michigan, telephone number OR 6-5831, advised that he has known Mr. FORD since 1939, when he attended high school with him. Since 1939, SIEDMAN has maintained a casual, personal and political relationship with GERALD FORD.

In 1962, SIEDMAN stated that he had a rather intensive involvement with Mr. FORD along with Governor GEORGE ROMNEY, when SIEDMAN was a candidate for the Auditor General's Office in Michigan. SIEDMAN stated that appointee acted as a party leader providing advice and Republican leadership during 1962. During this time, SIEDMAN advised appointee conducted himself in a reputable manner and provided inspiring leadership, and SIEDMAN was unable to remember anything unfavorable concerning appointee during this period.

SIEDMAN stated that he sees appointee three or four times a year on a casual, social, and political basis both in Grand Rapids and Washington, D.C.; however, he stated, this relationship is maintained on a low profile. SIEDMAN described Mr. FORD as an outstanding individual with honesty being his most prominent asset. He stated that he is extremely truthful and that any statement whether on a social or a political level can always be relied upon.

SIEDMAN knew nothing unfavorable about appointee concerning Mr. FORD's loyalty to the United States, his morals or civil rights attitudes. SIEDMAN stated that Mr. FORD politically tends to be conservative and pragmatic and is consistent in his political ideals.

SIEDMAN stated that in 1966 appointee had joined the Board of Directors for the Old Kent Bank Board. Immediately after Mr. FORD announced that he had joined the Board of Directors for this bank, several other bankers in the Grand Rapids area protested. After Mr. FORD realized the discontent of the other bankers, he immediately resigned.

DE 161-1355  
MJH:cp/MOS - 2

SIEDMAN stated that he highly recommends Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President and felt that there is not a more honest and forthright individual that could be selected for this job.

DE 161-1355  
JEM/bjk/mmr - 1

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Zeeland, Michigan, on October 17,  
1973:

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Miss JOAN DANHOT, 121 South Wall, Zeeland, Michigan, telephone PR 2-6968, stated she has known GERALD R. FORD for most of the 25 years that he has been a Representative. She advised that she was Vice Chairman of the Republican Party of Ottawa County, Michigan, in 1960, and had a rather close relationship with Mr. FORD.

Miss DANHOT advised that Mr. FORD's character, morals and loyalty have been above reproach. She further advised that she is unaware of any associates of Mr. FORD's who might be deemed undesirable.

In general, Miss DANHOT has been in agreement with the policies of Mr. FORD during his term as Representative and totally supports his nomination for the Vice President of the United States.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted on  
October 18, 1973 by SAs [ ] and [ ]  
[ ]:

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Mr. BERNARD G. MALEWITZ, 2540 Barfield, SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he is the president of the Hertel Plumbing and Heating Company, of Grand Rapids, Michigan. He stated that his company has been both the primary and secondary contractor on a number of federally funded projects in the Grand Rapids Area.

Mr. MALEWITZ indicated that he and his company have never received assistance in any form from Mr. FORD in securing any of his company's business. Mr. MALEWITZ said he has known Mr. FORD personally for approximately 20 years. He considers him to be an excellent Congressional representative and knows of nothing of an unfavorable nature concerning him. He said he golfs regularly with two of Mr. FORD's half brothers, JAMES and RICHARD. Mr. MALEWITZ related that he is not familiar with Mr. FORD's campaign financing and neither he nor his company have been solicited for campaign contributions for any of Mr. FORD's campaigns.

Mr. MALEWITZ said that his mother, who is confined to a convalescent home and unavailable for interview in his judgement, taught Mr. FORD in his kindergarten class. He stated he has met Mrs. FORD on approximately six occasions socially and nothing of an unfavorable nature concerning her directly or Mr. FORD's family in general has come to his attention. He believes Mr. FORD to be a very responsible Representative and highly qualified for any office. He has absolutely no reservations in recommending Mr. FORD and believes his loyalty to be beyond question.

DE 161-1355  
TVF/msl/kfm - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

MARVIN D. STAHL, President, A.J. Sparks and Company, Grand Rapids, advised that he has served on the Board of Directors, Rospatch Corporation for about six years. He advised that during that time he has become well acquainted with GERALD R. FORD as Mr. FORD is also on the Board of Directors.

STAHL advised that he has the highest respect and admiration for Mr. FORD and would, without hesitation, recommend Mr. FORD to serve as Vice President of the United States. He advised that Mr. FORD is of the highest character and moral background and that Mr. FORD's loyalty to the United States is unquestionable. He said that Mr. FORD is a hard-working individual who is extremely conscientious about his duties as a Congressman. He advised that Mr. FORD's stands on civil rights and minority issues are very fair and favorable in his opinion.

STAHL advised that Mr. FORD's family enjoys a favorable reputation in the Grand Rapids area. He further stated that he could not think of any information which would be considered derogatory concerning Mr. FORD or his family. He again stated that he highly recommended Mr. FORD for the Office of Vice President of the United States.

STAHL stated the Rospatch Corporation, Grand Rapids, Michigan, is engaged in the manufacturing of labels and tapes and it has interests in machinery and equipment companies. He stated the company has a film extrusion subsidiary.

DE 161-1355  
EHH/kpd:lcc - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Ionia, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

Mr. RONALD STORY, 1765 Nottingham Trail, Ionia, Michigan, President, Ionia County National Bank, advised he does not have a close personal relationship with Mr. GERALD R. FORD but has spoken to him at numerous Republican functions in the Ionia County area. Mr. FORD has represented his district as an outstanding Congressman and is highly regarded by the people of Ionia.

To the best of his knowledge, the appointee is a man of the highest integrity, ability, and morals and should make an outstanding Vice President.

Mr. STORY stated he knows of the appointee only through his public reputation but has never heard anyone in the Ionia County area make a derogatory statement about the appointee's ability as a Congressman representing his district.



DE 161-1355  
WNA/kpd -1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Rockford, Michigan:

CLARENCE BLANKSLEE, Mayor, Rockford, Michigan, has known Mr. FORD for approximately twelve years on a professional basis as Mr. FORD often traveled through Rockford when he was campaigning for office. Mr. FORD treats all citizens equally and is an advocate of civil rights legislation that will give every man equal opportunities. Mr. FORD's character, morals, personal life and financial affairs are above reproach.

Mr. FORD is a frank, straightforward individual who is well qualified for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
CAP/mam - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

Mr. LEONARD MAAS, President of Gillisse Constructive Company, 2500 28th Street, Southwest, Grand Rapids, advised that he has met Mr. FORD only once and that was in 1970 although he had been circulating petitions for him for 10 years prior to their meeting.

He stated that Mr. FORD appears to be a man of good character, morals and integrity and that he is a loyal American citizen. Mr. FORD is most conscientious in serving his district and appears to be an honest, sincere man. He advised he would recommend Mr. FORD for the office of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
MJH/dlc/jbm - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

[redacted] HAROLD L. SAWYER,  
senior partner of Warner, Norcross and Judd Attorneys,  
Grand Rapids, residing at [redacted] Grand Rapids,  
telephone number [redacted], was interviewed concerning her  
past and present association with GERALD R. FORD and his  
wife. [redacted] stated that she has known BETTY FORD  
since 1937 and has maintained a casual social relationship  
with BETTY and GERALD FORD since that time. She stated that  
in 1946, following the war, she established a permanent  
residence in the Grand Rapids area and subsequently became  
more familiar with BETTY FORD and her family.

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She stated that she attended school with two of  
the brothers of GERALD FORD and also became very familiar  
with GERALD FORD's family when he was growing up. She said  
that she has never heard any derogatory information concerning  
GERALD FORD, his wife, or any of his associates. She described  
BETTY FORD as being extremely "straight" and one who has  
maintained her dignity and integrity throughout the years.

[redacted] stated she would highly recommend  
GERALD R. FORD for the position of Vice President of the  
United States.

DE 161-1355  
LAB/cjn/mmr - 1

BUSINESSMAN

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

C. J. MC KENNAN, Underwriting Manager, Michigan Mutual Liability Company, Grand Rapids, advised he knows GERALD R. FORD by reputation only. He advised everything he has ever heard about Mr. FORD has been very good. He advised he knows Mr. FORD to be a very popular politician and noted for his high ideals, loyalty, fairness and integrity.

Mr. MC KENNAN further stated that his company dealt only in casualty and fire insurance and as far as he knows, there was no connection with Mr. FORD in any of their accounts. He advised this branch does not handle any Government contracts and they have never had any contact with Mr. FORD or any of his political associates regarding insurance matters.

DE 161-1355  
BEY:cgp/jbm - 1

BUSINESSMEN

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 17,  
1973:

W. H. (BUD) KOUTS, President, Bud Kouts Chevrolet, 2801 East Michigan Avenue, advised he has met appointee GERALD FORD off and on during the past 20 years. He stated he does not know Mr. FORD personally and would not be able to comment on Mr. FORD's personal life or his family.

Mr. KOUTS stated his main contact with Mr. FORD has been a Business Man's Day which was sponsored by Congressman CHARLES CHAMBERLAIN jointly with Mr. FORD. Businessmen in the area would spend the day in Washington and hear various cabinet heads speak and one of these speakers would usually be Mr. FORD.

Mr. KOUTS further advised he was director of National Automobile Dealers in Washington, D. C. during 1965 and 1968 and is also a past president of the Michigan Automobile Dealers Association; and through business functions of these positions, he has also met Mr. FORD.

Mr. KOUTS stated he considers Congressman FORD exceptionally honest and a person who uses "good common sense" on all his political decisions. Mr. FORD appears to be aware of everything that is going on in Congress and is not afraid to make a decision on issues.

Mr. KOUTS stated that he considers Mr. FORD to be an outstanding choice and highly recommended Mr. FORD for Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
AW/emp - 1

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BUSINESS ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

WILBUR WARREN, Chairman of Model Neighborhood Citizen Community, 40 Ransom, NE, Grand Rapids, advised that he has known Appointee FORD for approximately 40 years. WARREN stated that he remembers FORD as being on opposing high school athletic teams in the Grand Rapids area. He stated that he has worked with FORD recently in the position of organizing the Local Model Cities Program in Grand Rapids. WARREN stated that he considers FORD to be an honest, trustworthy and dedicated individual who has done everything possible as a political leader to bring nothing but the best to the constituents of his congressional district. WARREN stated he could provide no information about FORD's morals, associates and character that would disqualify FORD from accepting the position of Vice President. WARREN stated that he believed FORD's ability and experience to relate and identify with all people qualifies him for the position of Vice President.

WARREN stated that he believes FORD has shown by his voting record that he is a representative of all the people and, therefore, believes that FORD does not practice any racial discrimination.

WARREN advised that he has only the highest regard for Appointee FORD as an individual. He knows of no derogatory information that will prevent Appointee FORD from being appointed to the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
FHW:nar - 1

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [ ] on October 17, 1973:

Mr. PAUL RONEY, Assistant Division Manager, Consumers Power Company, 4000 Clay, Grand Rapids, Michigan, furnished the following information:

Mr. RONEY advised he does not know Mr. FORD personally. He has been introduced to Mr. FORD a couple of times at meetings such as Chamber of Commerce meetings or Rotary Club meetings where Mr. FORD was the speaker. Mr. RONEY advised although he does not know Mr. FORD, he has the highest regard for him. He has never heard anything derogatory concerning his character, morals, associates, loyalty, civil rights, or views and feels he is highly qualified for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
EHH/pjf - 1

b6  
b7C

[ ] The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 18, 1973, at Ionia, Michigan:

Mr. JOHN P. O'KEEFE, 148 East Washington, Ionia, Michigan, Attorney with the law firm of O'Connor, McNamara, and O'Keefe, stated that he did not know GERALD FORD personally but believes Mr. FORD has outstanding qualifications to fill the position of Vice President. Mr. O'KEEFE stated he does not know of any reason why Mr. FORD should not be appointed for Vice President and was extremely pleased with Mr. NIXON's choice of Mr. FORD for Vice President.



DE 161-1355  
RJG/emp - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

[ ] an employee of the Grand Rapids Tree Company, advised that she is not a personal acquaintance of GERALD R. FORD. She advised that she has only heard Mr. FORD speak on one occasion, but stated that from what she knows of GERALD FORD he is a man of unquestionable character and loyalty and his morals are above reproach.

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[ ] advised that the only knowledge she has of the views of GERALD R. FORD is what she reads in his monthly newsletters and she agrees with him wholeheartedly. She further advised that she has no personal knowledge relative to the financial background of Mr. FORD. She further advised that the Grand Rapids Tree Company has had a few government contracts, but these contracts were all subcontracts.

[ ] stated that she does not know of any unfavorable information regarding GERALD FORD or his immediate family and that she would like to see him in the post of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
RAE:ptm:lrc -1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973 at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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[redacted] Office of the General Manager, General Motors Diesel Equipment Division, 2100 Burlingame, SW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that she is not personally acquainted with Mr. GERALD R. FORD. She stated, however, that she has done extensive reading and research on his record as a public servant and on his views as a congressman and has talked to many people who are personally acquainted with Mr. FORD. She stated that from her observations, she believes Mr. FORD to be a man of the highest integrity who is an extremely dedicated public servant and she has no knowledge of anything of a derogatory nature regarding either Mr. FORD, his family or his associates. She believes Mr. FORD to be extremely loyal and a man of the highest moral standards.

She stated that in view of the above and considering the fine reputation which Mr. FORD enjoys in the community, she has no hesitation in giving him the highest recommendation for the office for which he has been appointed.

DE 161-1355  
AW/msl - 1

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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JEROME E. SARRELLS, President of Community Development, Inc., 2559 Grovebluff Drive, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known GERALD R. FORD for approximately five years.

Mr. SARRELLS advised that he served as President of the Grand Rapids Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from 1967-1970. It was during this time he became familiar with Mr. FORD.

SARRELLS stated that he believes Mr. FORD to be a very conservative individual with intense feelings for the civil rights of all individuals. He believes, however, that Mr. FORD's voting record on civil rights legislation is not a pleasing one but feels it is due in part to his political party's stand on civil rights. He refers to Mr. FORD as an astute politician.

SARRELLS advised that Mr. FORD is a man of good character, integrity and truthworthiness. He also stated that Mr. FORD reflects publicly the wishes of his constituency.

SARRELLS feels that Mr. FORD is an excellent choice for Vice President of the United States and would recommend him highly.

DE 101-1355  
JKG/btm - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 19, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

ROBERT J. MC BAIN, Certified Public Accountant, 435 Old Kent Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, provided SA [redacted] information concerning three ordinary life insurance policies with the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company.

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Policy number 2558899 carries a \$15,000.00 face amount for GERALD FORD, annual premium \$583.50, cash value \$4,858.80.

Policy number 3019587 carries a \$10,000.00 face amount for GERALD FORD, annual premium \$433.10, cash value \$2,101.30.

Policy number [redacted]  
amount for [redacted] annual premium [redacted]  
cash value [redacted].

[redacted] stated the insurance agent in charge of the above accounts is [redacted] Grand Rapids, Michigan. The cash values of the policies were traced into the September, 30, 1973, balance sheet of GERALD FORD.

DE 161-1355  
JCE/ltc/dll - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted on  
October 18, 1973, by SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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b7C

Mr. G. JAMES SCRIPPS, 6620 Comstock Road, Hesperia, Michigan, advised he is president of the Robinson Cartage Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. SCRIPPS stated that he has known Mr. FORD since approximately 1928 and has himself been a long-time Republican. He has had numerous contacts over the years with Mr. FORD on a personal basis but advised he has never contacted him on what he would categorize as business. He has absolutely no hesitation nor reservations in recommending Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President or for any other position of high honor or trust. Mr. SCRIPPS believes Mr. FORD to be completely honest in all respects. He believes him further to be of high moral character and a man of unquestionable loyalty.

Mr. SCRIPPS advised that Mr. FORD is one of the most responsive governmental officials he has ever known. As an indication of this he stated that Mr. FORD, on a regular basis, contacts persons in his congressional district. One of the methods he recalls Mr. FORD has used effectively is to take a camper type trailer to rural areas and meet with local constituents to solicit their views.

Mr. SCRIPPS could provide no information concerning Mr. FORD's views in the area of civil rights, but believes them to be acceptable to the people of the 5th Congressional District.

DE 161-1355  
WSN/DMW/DMG - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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MARTY KLOOSTRA, President of Mid-State Steel  
Erectors, Inc., 2914 Three Mile Road, Grand Rapids, was  
interviewed at his office-residence at [ ]  
[ ] Grand Rapids, and he provided the following  
information:

He stated that he knows of no derogatory information  
regarding Mr. GERALD R. FORD and has not heard of anyone  
who knows of any derogatory information regarding him.

Mr. KLOOSTRA felt that he could not comment on  
Mr. FORD's suitability for Vice President since he did not  
know the man and has had no contact with him.

DE 161-1355  
PJC/dlc:mam - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

JAMES SIMON, part owner, Miller Equipment  
Company, 1425 28th Street, Southwest, advised that he  
does not know Mr. FORD on a personal or professional basis.  
He stated he knew of nothing derogatory about Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
RJG/dlc - 1

b6  
b7C

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] in Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
on October 18, 1973:

[REDACTED], who resides at [REDACTED]  
Grand Rapids, and is employed at the Katerburg Trenching  
Company, 3717 Michigan in Grand Rapids, advised that he  
has never met GERALD R. FORD personally but has heard  
him speak at various landscaping dinners. [REDACTED]  
advised that from what he knows of GERALD FORD, he is  
a man of high character and morals and his loyalty is  
unquestionable. [REDACTED] further advised that he  
believes all of GERALD FORD's friends are very reputable.

[REDACTED] stated that he is not familiar  
with the specific views of appointee but stated he does  
agree with anything Mr. FORD is backing because of the trust  
he places in GERALD R. FORD. [REDACTED] advised that  
he would not be able to comment on Mr. FORD's qualifications  
as an attorney because he is not familiar with them.

[REDACTED] stated that he knows of no derogatory  
information concerning either Mr. FORD or his family and  
stated that he would personally like to see GERALD FORD  
made Vice President.



DE 161-1355  
BAM/nar:lcc - 1

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 19, 1973:

Mr. FRANK BARNES, Vice President, Barnes Construction, Incorporated, 1310 Wallen, Southwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, stated that he has met GERALD FORD on at least two occasions at social functions, but has never engaged Mr. FORD in a conversation. He further advised that he is not in a position to furnish information concerning Mr. FORD since his contacts were of a social nature and consisted only of a simple introduction.

Mr. BARNES stated that based on his knowledge of Mr. FORD, he would recommend Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
HKM/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 16, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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Mr. JOHN W. CUMMISKY, Attorney, 465 Old Kent Building, telephone number 459-8311, Grand Rapids, advised that he and Appointee attended the University of Michigan together. CUMMISKY further advised that Appointee practiced law in Grand Rapids before being elected to Congress; however, it was not with the same firm that he is associated with. CUMMISKY stated that he considers himself to be a personal friend of Appointee having known him since approximately 1934. CUMMISKY advised that he knows nothing concerning Appointee's character, reputation, loyalty, or associates that would reflect derogatory information on Appointee. CUMMISKY stated that Appointee drinks only very rarely and considers his moral background to be spotless. CUMMISKY stated that he would recommend Appointee to the highest office to which he has been appointed.

DE 161-1355  
WTJ/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

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b7c

RICHARD OELE, Adjutant, Michigan Veterans Facility, 300 Monroe, Grand Rapids, Northwest, advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD, JR. for over 25 years both as a professional acquaintance and social friend.

He described FORD as being an extremely honest individual, who participated in cleaning up the crime and corruption in the Grand Rapids area many years ago. Mr. OELE advised that he highly recommends GERALD FORD for any position of trust and confidence with the United States Government and he considers him eminently qualified for any political appointment.

Mr. OELE stated that he knows of absolutely no derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD's character, loyalty or associates; nor does he know of any information which might prove embarrassing to either Mr. FORD or the United States Government.

DE 161-1355  
DLB/emv - 1

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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Honorable A. DALE STOPPELS, Probate Court, Grand Rapids, advised that he first met GERALD A. FORD JR., the fall of 1948 when he was a student at the University of Michigan Law School and Mr. FORD came to the University in connection with his campaign against BARNEY YOUNGMAN. He stated that he has talked with Mr. FORD at various times since then and since gaining his present position Mr. FORD has stopped occasionally to solicit his ideas in connection with any proposed legislation. He stated he does not regard himself as a close personal friend of Mr. FORD's, as he has never met with him other than on a business-like basis. He stated he has met Mr. FORD's wife but does not know her well. Judge STOPPELS said he would rate Mr. FORD's character, honesty and integrity, very highly, and from the standpoint of his loyalty to the United States and his personal characteristics would recommend him highly for the position of Vice President of the United States. He stated that he knows of nothing unfavorable in Mr. FORD's background especially with regard to such things as the handling of, or receipt of campaign funds that might warrant investigation. He advised he has never talked with FORD specifically about his views on civil rights and has not made any judgements concerning FORD's views in this area.

DE 161-1355  
KSB/rlg/mlw

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

JAMES R. RUGG of [redacted], Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he is a senior partner in the Certified Public Accountant Firm of Rugg, Merkel and Prangley, 980 Union Bank Building, Grand Rapids. RUGG advised that he first met GERALD FORD in 1946. At that time RUGG was working in a CPA firm of BOB MC BAIN. MC BAIN's office was located in the same building as that of MR. FORD's law practice in 1946. RUGG stated that his closest association with MR. FORD results from RUGG's membership in the downtown Kiwanis Club, Grand Rapids. RUGG held the position of President of this Kiwanis Club from 1960 through 1961. RUGG was instrumental in arranging speaking engagements of MR. FORD before the downtown Kiwanis Club. These speaking engagements were an annual event. Aside from RUGG's association with MR. FORD through Kiwanis, he has contacted him on many occasions at his office in Washington, D.C. RUGG stated that he has always received prompt replies to correspondence which he sent to MR. FORD. RUGG is unaware of any derogatory information with respect to MR. FORD's character, loyalty or associates. He stated that MR. FORD is an exemplary person. RUGG advised that in his opinion MR. FORD is an excellent choice for the Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
RAE/bjk/tsd - 1

ASSOCIATES

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The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

Mr. LYLE R. CASTON, Production Manager, General Motors Fisher Body Plant Number 1, 300 36th Street, Southwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD, JR. for approximately ten years. He advised he met Mr. FORD as a result of his business and through their joint participation in fund raising projects of a civic nature. He stated that in recent years his only contact with Mr. FORD has been during the infrequent tours of the General Motors facility, which the appointee has taken.

CASTON has had no contact with appointee FORD either socially or politically.

CASTON advised that appointee FORD appears to him to be of impeccable character and **is a person of high** moral standards. He stated that from his observation, Mr. FORD appears to be extremely loyal and of the highest integrity. He has no first-hand knowledge of Mr. FORD's views of civil rights, but has never noticed him to exhibit prejudice of any type. From his knowledge of Mr. FORD's associates, they appear to CASTON to be of the same high caliber as the appointee.

CASTON stated that he does not hesitate to give appointee FORD his highest recommendation for the office of Vice President of the United States.

ASSOCIATES

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DE 101-1355  
GDM:mpr/gkl - 1

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Lansing, Mich-  
igan, on October 16, 1973:

DE T-1 advised that he was a close personal friend of the FORD family and highly recommended GERALD FORD for the position of Vice President and stated he has an outstanding character, highly reputable in his community, and he has never known him to associate with questionable individuals. He advised that GERALD FORD was born in Nebraska, and was named GERRY KING. He stated that FORD's mother moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and married GERRY's father, Mr. FORD. He further advised that he has known GERALD FORD since 1948 and has never known through rumor, personal knowledge, or otherwise, of any derogatory information about GERALD FORD regarding his actions, character, or associates. [REDACTED]

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He stated that in the 25 years that he has known GERALD FORD, he has never known him to drink, womanize, and has not displayed any type of moral character that would be detrimental to the high position he has been nominated for.

**DE T-1 has furnished insufficient information to determine reliability.**



DE 161-1355  
FHW/nar:cb - 1

ASSOCIATES

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The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [ ] on October 17, 1973:

Mr. JOHN R. STILES, 1072 Knapp, Northeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, stated that he first became acquainted with Mr. GERALD FORD about 38 years ago, when they were in high school and Mr. FORD was a quite well-known high school football player. Approximately 1935, he got to know Mr. FORD very well when they were fraternity brothers at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. After Mr. FORD graduated from the University of Michigan, he went to Yale where he was a junior varsity football coach and where he studied law. While Mr. FORD was at Yale, he became a partner with HARRY **CONOVER in the Conover Model** Agency in New York City. As he recalls, Mr. FORD got involved in the modeling agency with Mr. CONNOVER through a model he was dating at that time, name unrecalled by Mr. STILES, and through Mr. BRADSHAW CRANDELL who was a well-known illustrator of magazine covers in New York at that time. In the early part of 1942, shortly after Pearl Harbor, Mr. FORD joined the **Navy's** physical fitness program and was on the carrier U.S.S. Monterey, where he achieved the rating of deck officer. While an officer on the carrier Monterey, Mr. FORD saw action in the Pacific Theater. Mr. FORD was discharged from the Navy in early 1946.

During 1944, while in the Navy, Mr. FORD sold his interest in the Conover Model Agency since he was not able to participate in the running of the agency while he was in the Navy.

After being discharged from the Navy, Mr. FORD returned to the Grand Rapids area where he practiced law. While he was practicing law, Mr. FORD worked on many charity drives, during which time he became well-known and very well liked in the Grand Rapids area. It was also during this time that Mr. FORD was an aggressive worker for the Citizens Home-front Campaign, an organization of local citizens that had **as its** goal to clean up local politics, which it did.

DE 161-1355  
FHW/nar:cb - 2

In 1948, Mr. FORD ran the first time for the United States House of Representatives from the 5th Congressional District, which seat he won. Mr. STILES advised he was Mr. FORD's campaign manager for his first campaign and has been very active as a campaign worker in most of Mr. FORD's other Congressional campaigns since that time. Mr. STILES stated that due to Mr. FORD's popularity, none of his campaigns have been expensive.

Mr. STILES described Mr. FORD as modestly well to do financially. In about 1946, he, Mr. FORD, NEIL WEATHERS, and HAROLD WILMORTH, who are all good friends, purchased a lot in the vicinity of the Caberfae, Michigan, ski resort area and they personally constructed a cottage on this lot. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] With [REDACTED] Mr. FORD and BETTY bought the lot at 504 Crown View Drive, Alexandria, Virginia, and built a house on that lot. During this time, Mr. FORD also bought a two-family house on Sherman Street in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which residence Mr. and Mrs. FORD used as their Grand Rapids residence while not in Washington, D. C. Approximately three years ago the FORDS purchased a condominium in Vail, Colorado, for about \$45,000.00. This condominium is rented by a company in Colorado when it is not in use by the FORDS.

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As a result of Mr. FORD's being a member of the Warren Commission, and Mr. STILES being a Special Assistant on the Warren Commission, he and Mr. FORD wrote the book, "Portrait of an Assassin", which book was published by Simon and Schuster Publishing Company. They each received \$5,000.00 for the book, which amount was to be deducted from the royalties for the sale of the book, however, the royalties never amounted to the \$10,000.00, so they received no more for their writing of the book. In addition to the above, Mr. FORD, as do all members of Congress, received compensation for giving speeches which is possibly \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 per speech.

DE 161-1355  
FHW/nar:cb - 3

Mr. STILES stated that through his close association with Mr. FORD, he has come to know him as an individual who is very dedicated to his job as a member of the House of Representatives and an individual who is not business-oriented.

Mr. STILES stated that Mr. FORD and all members of his family are of the highest character and morals. Mr. FORD associates with individuals of ~~the~~ highest character and is completely loyal to the United States, his family, and job. During his association with Mr. FORD he has never known him to show any prejudice toward any individual or any group and he has always been very considerate of anyone who came to see him whether they had an appointment or not. Concerning Mr. FORD's qualifications to become vice president of the United States, he feels that no better choice than Mr. FORD could be made. Mr. FORD is an extremely intelligent individual who never shows any sign of egotism, whose political enemies praise, and is an individual who understands people and knows how to handle people. Mr. STILES has never heard anything derogatory concerning Mr. FORD and highly recommends him for the position of vice president of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
RAS/dmw - 2

<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
[REDACTED]	\$1,000.00	October 6, 1972
[REDACTED]	\$2,546.01	October 6, 1972
MEBA Political Action Fund 17 Battery Place New York, New York 10004	\$2,500.00	October 11, 1972
National Republican Congressional Committee Congressional Hotel Washington, D. C. 2003	\$900.00	October 11, 1972
Ford For Congress Committee 620 Old Kent Building Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502	\$6,046.64	March 12, 1973
[REDACTED] Homemaker [REDACTED] Washington, D. C.	\$500.00	November 3, 1972
Boilermakers- Blacksmiths Legislative Education Program (LEAP) (CAF) 400 First Street, NW Washington, D. C. 20001	\$500.00	October 11, 1972

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RUSSELL stated that newspapers have raised the question of possible wrong doing in regard to a \$11,500.00 contribution during Appointee's 1970 campaign. To RUSSELL's knowledge, the entire transaction was perfectly legal but he admitted his information regarding the matter was obtained from newspaper accounts and he had no first hand involvement or knowledge with respect to the money. RUSSELL advised that perhaps the most informed person concerning the questioned

\$11,500.00 was FRANK MEYER, now deceased, the former Administrative Assistant to Appointee.

All of Appointee's financial interest were not known to RUSSELL but he felt that outside the family paint and varnish business in Grand Rapids, Appointee had no noteworthy business or financial involvements. RUSSELL stated that he was unaware of any conflict of interest charges that could be leveled against Appointee but to the contrary RUSSELL recalled that Appointee went out of his way to avoid any conflict. RUSSELL stated on one occasion a constituent had contacted him for information regarding a contact with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and asked for assistance in this matter by having Appointee set up an appointment. RUSSELL stated that Appointee did not wish to become involved in this matter even in such a small way as setting up the appointment or making the contact with IRS and this reflects his attitude in efforts to avoid any conflict of interests.

RUSSELL stated there were few people in the world who could not have derogatory information related about them and Appointee was in that select few. RUSSELL stated even Democratic opponents spoke highly of Appointee and there was absolutely no question about his loyalty, morality, or integrity. Appointee was described as a first rate leader. He never had to push but easily gained the confidence of those he served. RUSSELL related Appointee was popular with all who knew him and he numbered friends and associates in labor, business and political circles in all stations of society throughout the country.

RUSSELL advised newspaper reporters had visited him and he had attempted to recall any possible event, associate or flaw that may be inconsistent with Appointee's nomination as Vice President of the United States. RUSSELL stated even the few things he had heard mentioned during his long association with Appointee were minor. Appointee's wife, BETTY, was previously married and some acquaintances questioned this during the past but there were never any indications that Appointee was anything than a dedicated family man with strong family ties. In the past there had been some associates who had questioned Appointee's friendship with JOHN R. STILES,

DE 161-1355

RAS/cel - 4

a former campaign manager and assistant to Mr. FORD who once corroborated with Mr. FORD in writing a book. RUSSELL stated STILES had been divorced and had married a woman he chose to describe as a "spitfire" and in connection with that marriage STILES had a run-in with the police department following a domestic disturbance. It is RUSSELL's knowledge this is the only association of appointee's that has even had a hint of controversy surrounding him.

RUSSELL related that appointee is never one to conceal his feelings on political issues and he is always willing to state his views. He advised the appointee is a concerned man who weighs his decisions carefully and the views he expresses in public were the views he held in private. RUSSELL stated that although the many elements of the liberal community question his stand in regard to Civil Rights there is never any question of the appointee's concern for minority groups or his fairness in his relationship to them.

RUSSELL stated that he knew of no one in this country more qualified to fill the position of Vice President of the United States than appointee.

DE 161-1355

WAT/emp

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The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973:

Mrs. ELLA WEED, formerly Mrs. ELLA KOEZE, nee ELLA DEMMINK, residing at 2036 Radcliffe, telephone number 949-6397, was the former committeewoman for the Republican National Committee, 1960-1968, and has an extensive political background in the Republican Party. She has known Mr. FORD since the early 1930's when she was assisting his father in politics. WEED began her own political career as a precinct delegate and gradually attained, on the local level, the position of Vice Chairwoman of the Kent County Republican Committee and GERALD FORD, SR., was Chairman. She commented that if she were to select an ideal "clean politician" and gentleman, he would be the one. She added that FORD may not have the charisma that some politicians have, but that with his other outstanding attributes, he does not need charisma. He is a humble, kind, and considerate individual with a flawless reputation. She could not recall any questionable associates of Mr. FORD's other than JACK STILES.

She described STILES as a controversial-type individual with a bad temper. The severity of STILES' temper was manifest in an incident between STILES and his wife which resulted in STILES beating his wife and the subsequent arrest of STILES. During political campaigns there are always individuals who insist on assisting in the campaign, at times contrary to the wishes of the candidate, and there are always individuals known as "hangers-on". She feels that STILES was one such individual. She did not believe STILES was ever paid by FORD. FORD has a great loyalty to his friends and if STILES assisted in some way she is sure FORD appreciated it. As far as STILES' employment, WEED did not recall that he was steadily employed, but authored a book and had an interest in a lumber company. She also indicated that STILES was the type of individual who always took the opposing view from what most people would consider a norm and therefore considered STILES a "controversial" individual.

She would never question Mr. FORD's loyalty to the United States and is positive that he is "100 percent loyal" to the United States. She highly recommended Mr. FORD for a position of trust and responsibility with the Federal Government.

She indicated that Mrs. GERALD FORD was previously married but stated that the first marriage was an "unfortunate" one. WEED stated that she was told by Mr. FORD's mother that it "just didn't work out" and that it was an "unfortunate" marriage. WEED was not knowledgeable of the circumstances regarding the divorce since she was eight years ahead of BLOOMER and FORD in high school.

DE 161-1355  
WAT/emp - 2

She could not recall any rumored indiscretions or medical/psychiatric problems regarding either Mr. FORD or his wife. She stated that she has read recently in the newspaper that Mr. FORD had been rumored to have been under psychiatric care at one time, but added that Mr. FORD would be the last person she could think of who would need psychiatric care, in that he had always been extremely calm, collected, and astute.

She had never discussed civil rights with Mr. FORD nor had she read anything wherein FORD's views were expressed regarding civil rights, but stated that from her knowledge of Mr. FORD, she believed that he would have a broad sympathy for the civil rights movement.

She concluded by stating that Mr. FORD's nomination for Vice President is "an absolutely wonderful appointment" both for Mr. FORD and the country.



DE 161-1355  
JHC/tsd - 1

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 18, 1973:

[redacted]  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he had no information  
indicating Mr. GERALD FORD was previously married.

[redacted] stated that he is not aware of any  
psychiatric or medical treatment received by Mr. FORD or  
members of his immediate family. He stated that GERALD  
FORD is a moderate in civil rights matters.

[redacted] knows of nothing unfavorable in the  
background of Mr. GERALD FORD and his immediate family.

DE 161-1355  
JHC/msl - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

[ ], Grand Rapids, Michigan, was recontacted to determine if any information had come to his attention regarding the appointee or his family seeking psychiatric or medical assistance.

[ ] stated he was unaware of any psychiatric history for either Mr. or Mrs. FORD. He knew of no particular medical problem that either of them might have experienced. He stated that Mr. and Mrs. FORD drink moderately in a social setting but is not aware of any excessive drinking.

[ ] stated that he was aware that ELIZABETH FORD had previously been married but he has never met her former husband, WILLIAM WARREN, and is unaware of the cause of their divorce. [ ] stated that he has never heard of any previous marriage on the part of GERALD FORD.

[ ] reiterated that to the best of his knowledge there was no derogatory information in the background of Mr. GERALD FORD or that of his family.

DE 161-1355  
MAT/srd - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 19, 1973:

DAVID YOUNG, owner of Bekman Company, 2839 Chicago Drive, Grandville, Michigan, advised that he is not closely associated with GERALD FORD, however, he is aware of Mr. FORD's appointment to the position of Vice President and he has been aware of Mr. FORD's political background since he is the Congressman for this district. He stated that he had, several years ago, written a letter to Mr. FORD's office and received a courteous and appropriate reply. He stated that this has been his most direct contact with Mr. FORD or his office.

He stated that pertaining to Mr. FORD's character, reputation and fellow associates, he was of the opinion that they were beyond reproach. He added that he has no reason to doubt Mr. FORD's loyalty to the country which he stated could be evidenced by Mr. FORD's past performance in Congress.

He added that he is familiar with Mr. FORD's brother, TOM FORD, and that he, as well as the entire FORD family, enjoy an excellent reputation in the Grand Rapids area.

He feels Mr. FORD is fully qualified for the position for which he has been appointed and that he would most definitely recommend Mr. FORD for this position.

DE 161-1355  
WTH/rlg/pjw -1

ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

WILLIAM ALSOVER of 1829 Lake Drive, Southeast,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed at his office  
which is located at 1102 Peoples Building at 16th Monroe  
Street. He furnished the following information:

He has known GERALD FORD for approximately  
25 years. He stated that he is not a close personal  
friend of Mr. FORD, but he is acquainted with him and  
does go to dinner with Mr. FORD and his wife on occasions.  
He advised that Mr. FORD's character is above reproach  
and Mr. FORD is a fine, outstanding citizen who  
enjoys an excellent reputation. He further advised that  
Mr. FORD's loyalty to the United States is beyond  
question and Mr. FORD has associates who are very reputable  
people. He further advised that Mr. FORD is highly  
qualified for the position of Vice President of the  
United States and stated that Mr. FORD and himself worked  
in the Boy Scouts together and that all the dealings he  
has had with Mr. FORD gave him the impression that  
Mr. FORD is an extremely honest individual whose integrity  
is of very high caliber. He advised he would highly  
recommend Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President  
of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
UGS/kpd -1

PROFESSIONAL ACQUAINTANCE

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ☐  
☐ on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

JOHN DUNCAN MC DONALD, Attorney at Law, former United States Commissioner, 1002 Michigan National Bank Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed and advised as follows:

MC DONALD advised he has known GERALD FORD since after the Second World War. FORD entered the practice of law and shortly thereafter was elected to the United States Congress. MC DONALD advised he never was a very close friend of Mr. FORD; however, he had been a supporter of Mr. FORD for quite some time and frequently attends meetings and speeches that Mr. FORD attends.

MC DONALD thought very highly of Mr. FORD and described him as a very honest and forthright individual.

MC DONALD stated Mr. FORD's associates and family are of a high caliber and of unquestionable character.

MC DONALD stated Mr. FORD is "100 percent" a loyal American citizen and highly recommended him for the position of trust and responsibility carried with the Vice-Presidency of the United States.

MC DONALD knew of no indiscretions on the part of FORD in both political and personal life stating that Mr. FORD "would be the last person" he would suspect of any wrong doings.

DE 161-1355  
RDC/cgp/pjw -1

ACQUAINTANCES

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,  
Michigan:

LESLIE BROWN BUTLER, Lobbyist for Life Insurance Companies in the State of Michigan, 301 Capitol Savings and Loan Building, Lansing, Michigan, advised he has been active in the Republican Party in the State of Michigan since 1939. BUTLER advised he met appointee, GERALD R. FORD, during a conference at Mackinac Island sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce approximately ten years ago. BUTLER advised he was very much impressed with Mr. FORD and was especially impressed with his sincerity regarding problems that faced the United States.

BUTLER stated his wife had a very long conversation with Mrs. FORD and she described Mrs. FORD as being intelligent, very interesting and apparently dedicated to assisting her husband.

BUTLER stated that at no time during his association with the Republican Party has he ever heard of any corruption or misconduct relative to Mr. FORD. BUTLER stated he believes Mr. FORD will make an excellent Vice President and recommends him without reservation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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Page 286 ~

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Page 297 ~

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Page 378 ~

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